

6 Israelis killed in suicide attack

BEIRUT (R) — A suicide driver rammed an explosive-laden truck at an Israeli position in South Lebanon Friday, destroying two tanks and killing six soldiers, Beirut Radio reported. The radio said "national resistance fighters" carried out the operation near Deir Qanoun An Nahr, a village 10 kilometres east of the southern Lebanese port of Tyre. It was impossible to confirm the report with the Israeli military spokesman in southern Lebanon as communications with the south have been cut. Attacks on the Israelis, who have occupied South Lebanon since they invaded in June 1982, have increased lately following calls from leaders of the Shiite Muslims, the dominant group in the south, to drive them out.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز: صحيفة سياسية عربية مستقلة، منشورة من قبل مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Algerian minister arrives in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Algeria's minister of social protection and member of the executive committee of the National Liberation Front Party, Mrs. Zuhur Wanisi arrived in Amman on an official visit to Jordan. In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mrs. Wanisi said she was carrying a written message to His Majesty King Hussein from Algerian President Chadli Benjedid. The message, she said, deals with the brotherly relations between Jordan and Algeria and the co-operation between the two countries in the interests of the two sister nations and the supreme interest of the Arab Nation. Mrs. Wanisi added that she was also carrying a message from the Algerian government to the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for the Support of the Steadfastness of the People in the Occupied Territories. Receiving her at the airport was Minister of Social Development Abdul Salam Kana'an and Algerian Ambassador to Jordan Ahmad Laidi.

Volume 9 Number 2541

AMMAN, SATURDAY APRIL 14, 1984, RAJAB 14, 1404

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

2 Israeli soldiers wounded in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (AP) — Two Israeli soldiers were wounded Friday when light arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades were directed at their patrol in South Lebanon, the military command said. The command said the soldiers were ambushed near the village of Douer, 10 kilometres northwest of the market town Nabatieh. On Wednesday, an Israeli soldier and five Lebanese civilians were injured when two hand grenades were hurled at them in the Nabatieh marketplace.

Weinberger against return of Iran's plane

WASHINGTON (R) — Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger is opposed to returning to Iran the second of two Boeings seized in the United States in 1979 after U.S. hostages were taken in Tehran, administration officials said Friday. The planes, both Boeing 707s, were in the United States to be fitted with advanced technology when the hostage crisis occurred. The first plane, stripped of this equipment, was returned to Iran last month.

Arab fund not to help Turkish project

KUWAIT (AP) — A high-ranking official of the Kuwait-based Arab Economic Development Fund was quoted Friday as affirming that no loan would be granted to Turkey to finance the Ataturk dam until prior agreement was secured by Ankara with neighbouring Syria and Iraq. Syria was reported to have asked the funds not to finance the scheme since the waters of the Euphrates were used to irrigate large tracts of land in Syria and Iraq, and no agreement had yet been reached with Turkey on the sharing of the waters.

Mitterrand to visit Moscow this year

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union announced Friday that French President Francois Mitterrand will visit Moscow later this year for talks with President Konstantin Chernenko. Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Kornienko told a press conference there were firm plans for the meeting. He said a date would be announced later. Mr. Mitterrand has already indicated he intends to visit the Soviet Union before the end of the year but Mr. Kornienko's announcement was the first mention of the visit from Moscow.

Iranian rebels use 'publicity bombs'

PARIS (R) — The Iranian opposition Mujahideen-e-Khalq group said Friday it was using "publicity bombs" to disperse leftist calls for a boycott of elections to the Iranian parliament on Sunday. The Paris-based group said in a statement that more than 30 of the devices had gone off in Tehran and other Iranian cities this week, dispersing leaflets on the streets. It did not explain what kind of device was involved. Iranians vote Sunday, page 2

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Palestinian commandos strike again in Israel

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The Palestinian resistance movement staged yet another daring operation inside Israel in which four commandos hijacked a bus and held its 35 passengers hostage for over 10 hours overnight Thursday before going down in a hail of fire by Israeli assault troops early Friday.

An Israeli woman soldier was also killed and seven others injured when Israeli troops stormed the bus at a roadside olive grove near the desert town of Rafah near the Egyptian border.

The operation began Thursday night when the commandos boarded the bus on a regular run between Tel Aviv and the Mediterranean town of Ashkelon, and threatened the driver with a handgun and forced him to drive towards the Egyptian frontier.

Some reports said the driver managed to escape from the bus and sounded the alarm, while one of the commandos took over the wheel and drove it towards the border.

Israeli vehicles chased the bus for over 40 kilometres as it headed for the frontier through the Gaza Strip before bringing it to a halt after its tyres were shot out by machine guns.

The bus was immobilised near Dir Al Balah, a Palestinian refugee camp along the Mediterranean coast, 17 kilometres north of the Egyptian border.

Israeli security forces surrounded the single-decker bus and, according to various news agency reports, stalled for time by entering into negotiations with the commandos. It was not clear how the negotiations were conducted.

Military roadblocks were set up throughout the Gaza Strip, whose 400,000 Palestinian residents are mostly supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The bus was stopped in the grass on the right hand side of the four-lane highway in open country near the Dir Al Balah camp and was illuminated by a single spotlight, according to the Associated Press (AP).

At one point, a man with a flashlight believed to be a hijacker could be seen walking down the aisle of the bus.

Even though Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens and Chief of Staff Moshe Levy had come to the scene, talks with the commandos failed to reach agreement and by 3:30 a.m. word circulated in the crowd of police, soldiers, medics and reporters that the bus would be stormed, the AP said.

Security officials said the commandos allowed one passenger, a pregnant woman, to leave the bus. Israelis were kept in the dark about the hijacking. No word of it was carried on local radio and television stations Thursday.

Censors checked every word filed by foreign agencies, cutting out key details and descriptions of the operation.

About 4:45 a.m. (0245 GMT), Israeli soldiers charged from bushes at the side of the road towards the bus, scaling its sides to get in through the windows and forcing open the front door.

After the crackle of rifle fire, hostages streamed out of the red-and-white Legged bus and seven wounded passengers were carried to stretchers.

The bodies of three dead commandos were covered with Israeli army blankets and driven away in the back of a pick-up truck. It was not clear what had happened to the fourth commando on the bus.

One passenger said three commandos told him their ages — 16, 19 and 20. "They behaved very nicely, that I must say," he told state radio.

Nine of the 35 passengers escaped from the bus through a window before the Israeli soldiers, hiding behind rocks in the area, stormed it, passengers and other witnesses quoted by the AP said.

In Damascus, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) claimed responsibility for the operation and said the action was part of a plan to step up the fight against Israel.

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Since the April 2 Jerusalem attack, there has been speculation abroad that Israel may launch a revenge operation. Beirut reports have spoken of Syria and Iraq building up forces in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

PFLP spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif said here the bus was hijacked so as to exchange Israeli hostages for Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

Mr. Abu Sharif told a press conference that the whole operation was "in response to our revolutionary decision to escalate armed struggle against the Zionist enemy and its forces."

A senior PFLP official told Reuters the commandos had control of the bus within minutes of its leaving Tel Aviv central bus station. He said it was driven by one of the hijackers through three barricades set up by the Israelis before running into a road block of tanks and armoured vehicles.

"The hijackers were then obliged to defend themselves by using hand grenades, inflicting several losses among Israeli soldiers," the official said.

In a little over four months, a total of seven people have been killed and 120 wounded in four separate attacks mounted inside Israel. In each case, a PLO faction claimed responsibility.

Thursday's hijacking came only 10 days after a gun and grenade attack in central Jerusalem in which 50 people were wounded and recalled a Palestinian commando bus attack in 1978 when 37 Israelis were killed.

During a three-hour session in Baghdad, the Iraqi president briefed King Hussein on the latest developments in the 43-month-old Iran-Iraq war, stressing that Iraq was quite capable of repelling and defeating any Iranian incursion, Petra said.

King Hussein expressed his as well as the Jordanian people's pride in the heroic stand of the Iraqi people and armed forces in the face of the Iranian aggression, the agency said.

The Iraqi people's fortitude and steadfastness should be an example to be followed by all Arabs, King Hussein said.

At the Baghdad meeting, the two leaders reviewed Arab affairs and international as well as regional developments and co-operation between Jordan and Iraq in all fields. The views of both sides were identical, Petra added.

The talks were attended by senior aides on both sides. Before leaving Baghdad, King Hussein, accompanied by the Iraqi president, toured a number of districts in Baghdad and inspected development projects. They also visited a number of schools and were met by cheering students.

Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat, who accompanied the King on the visit, met separately with Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan to discuss scopes of economic and trade co-operation between Jordan and Iraq. Both agreed on holding an expanded meeting in Baghdad on April 20 to discuss details of trade and economic co-operation.

Returning with the King Thursday were Mr. Obaidat, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ud Ibn Zaid.



His Majesty King Hussein bids farewell to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein at the end of his visit to Baghdad Thursday (Petra photo)

King returns after extensive discussions with Iraqi leader

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home Thursday at the end of a two-day visit to Iraq where he held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The talks dealt with the dangers inherent in the continued Iranian aggression on Iraq, and Arab and international affairs, according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

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Pessimism prevails as Lebanon marks nine years of civil strife

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon marked the ninth anniversary of the start of its civil war in a mood of pessimism Friday as President Amin Gemayel met one of his main opponents to try to narrow the gulf between the country's warring factions.

"There is nothing on the horizon except clouds and blood," one newspaper said in a typically gloomy editorial on the prospects for ending the war which has so far cost over 100,000 lives.

Throughout the day and overnight sporadic clashes were reported along the so-called "green line" dividing mainly Muslim west Beirut from the predominantly Christian east. Local radio stations said some shells fell in residential areas away from the front line, killing one man.

Mr. Gemayel went to Syrian-controlled northern Lebanon for a two-hour meeting with ex-President Suleiman Franjeh, a close ally of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Mr. Franjeh had been a member of the mainly Muslim "National Salvation Front" opposed to Mr. Gemayel. But he appeared to break with his allies when he blocked a reform plan proposed at last month's reconciliation conference in Switzerland.

Since then rival Lebanese groups have failed to make further political progress and a ceasefire

agreed to during the conference at the Swiss city of Lausanne has done little to reduce the violence.

A higher security committee was set up at Lausanne to organise the disengagement of loyalist Lebanese army units and the mainly Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia from their mostly Muslim rivals.

The committee, grouping senior officials from all sides, approved a plan last weekend, but its implementation awaits the formation of a 110-strong force of observers to monitor the ceasefire.

A 2,000-strong buffer force of Lebanese police, another element in the plan, is now ready, state-run Beirut Radio said.

A subcommittee said in a statement after a meeting Friday that it had approved a timetable and a detailed programme for the disengagement of forces along the 15-kilometre front from Beirut port to hills southeast of the capital.

But it said the observer corps was still undermined and called on army and police reservists to report for duty.

Local newspapers say that a hoped-for summit between Mr. Gemayel and Mr. Assad is conditional on a disengagement and the establishment of a firm ceasefire.

The Associated Press quoted administration sources as saying

Mr. Gemayel plans to carry on his consultations by further meetings with former presidents, ex-prime ministers and finally parliament bloc leaders within the next two days.

"The purpose of the consultations is to reach a consensus on the main guidelines of a reform programme and the suitable prime minister who will be designed to carry out the reforms," one source said. He declined to be named in keeping with government regulations.

Current Prime Minister Shafiq Al Wazzan's nine-man cabinet of technocrats resigned Feb. 5 to make way for a coalition government. It was reinstated about a month later for the sole purpose of scrapping Lebanon's troop withdrawal pact with Israel.

One other reason behind Mr. Gemayel's decision to launch the new effort to replace Mr. Wazzan's cabinet, the source said, was the failure to get a ceasefire firmly in place despite the week-old agreement among warring factions.

Police said one person was killed and nine others were wounded in overnight and midday battles by mortars. Rocket-propelled grenades ended heavy machine guns across the "green line," in the southern suburbs and mountainous town of Souq Al Gharb.

Lebanon steps up efforts for Israeli withdrawal, page 2

Egypt warns Israel of more Palestinian action

GENEVA (R) — Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali warned Israel Friday that resistance activities would increase in the region if conditions for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were not improved.

Such an improvement was also a precondition for better Israeli-Egyptian relations and a continuation of the Camp David process, he told a news conference here.

"It will be very difficult to restart the peace process without an amelioration of conditions on the West Bank and Gaza... if there is no improvement it will encourage rejectionism, radicalism and terrorism in the region," he said.

"Our object is to encourage conciliation and strengthen the position of the moderates, but this can be achieved only if we can offer the Palestinians a better quality of life, give them the freedom to hold political meetings and give them the possibility of their own economic activity, banks and companies."

The minister said: "If the destructive policy of diminishing all Palestinian reality on the West Bank and Gaza is continued, there will be more terrorism and destabilisation in the region."

Mr. Ghali, who was in Geneva to attend a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) meeting, characterised relations between Israel and Egypt as "cool but not glacial."

He said there was the political will on both sides to find ways "to turn a cold peace into a warm peace."

Pre-requisites for better relations were an improvement in conditions in the occupied territories, which he said had worsened since the Egyptian-Israeli accords were signed, a withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon and a return to Egypt of the small territory of Tabah on the Egypt-Israel Red Sea border.

He said the tiny area had symbolic value and should have been returned to Egypt under the terms of the 1978 Camp David agreement.

An Israeli company has built a hotel in Tabah.

Challenger returns after successful repair mission

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, California (R) — The United States space shuttle Challenger, diverted from a landing in Florida by bad weather, touched down here Friday after completing the first satellite rescue in history.

Challenger, carrying a crew of five, landed at Edwards Air Force Base in the Mojave Desert at 5:38 a.m. (1338 GMT) at the end of a seven-day mission during which it retrieved, repaired and redeployed a solar observatory satellite.

Challenger was to have landed at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida but heavy cloud cover forced it to come into this contingency landing site.

It was the second time in three tries that a shuttle has been prevented from landing in Florida by bad weather.

Heavy clouds hung over Kennedy at dawn, and mission officials told Challenger to remain aloft for another orbit to see if the weather would clear.

But clouds continued to build over the seaside spaceport and off-

icials ordered Challenger to head for sunny California.

The landing diversion was the first real setback of the mission, which accomplished the first retrieval and repair of a satellite.

Although they had trouble in getting hold of the orbiting solar observatory, the crew did manage to catch it and two of them replaced two major electronic components which had failed after it was launched in 1980.

The satellite, called Solar Max, was put back into Earth orbit where it will spend the next two years completing its mission — observing sun spots and solar flares with seven sophisticated instruments.

The success of the part of the mission opened up a new era of space exploitation, proving that satellites can be serviced in space, greatly extending their useful lifetimes.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) says new generation satellites can now be built for longer life and at less expense because they can be repaired and maintained in orbit.

Iraqi jets continue raids on Iranian positions

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi jet-fighters, helicopter gunships and combat units Friday attacked Iranian positions and troop concentrations across the central and southern sectors of the country's eastern border killing 25 Iranian soldiers and scoring direct hits, a war communique issued said.

The communique, released by the general command of the Iraqi Armed Forces, said Iraqi jet-fighters launched 147 raids throughout the day against Iranian positions in the southern sector of the 1,180-kilometre frontline separating the two warring states and returned safely to base.

Iraqi helicopter gunships, the communique said, attacked Iranian positions and troop concentrations in the 1,200-square-kilometre Huwazah marshes.

Meanwhile, Iraq called on the 10-state European Community to deter any possible Israeli attack on undisclosed Iraqi scientific and economic sites.

The call was made by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in a message to French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson who is head of the EC Council of Ministers.

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaraguan troops were holding off a three-day-old rebel attack against the Atlantic port of San Juan del Norte and had inflicted heavy casualties on the insurgents, a military spokesman said Friday.

He dismissed insurgent claims that the southern port, a few kilometres from the border with Costa Rica, had been captured.

Nicaragua is fighting rebel forces on two fronts and military leaders announced Thursday that an 8,000-strong U.S.-backed force invaded its northern provinces from Honduras last month.

They described the invasion by the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) as the biggest offensive by the insurgents to topple the country's leftist Sandinist government.

U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels attack northern port

Interior Minister Tomas Borge said Thursday night there was fighting in four provinces, Jonoteiga, Nueva Segovia, Zelaya Norte and Zelaya Sur. But there was no information on the situation there Friday.

The Costa Rican based Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (ARDE) said Thursday that 450 of its men backed by anti-aircraft missiles were about to take San Juan del Norte and would use it as a supply base for further attacks against Nicaragua.

In Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital, Frank Arana, a FDN spokesman, said the port had fallen adding: "We are very happy with this successful action."

The port would be the first town of any size to be controlled by the insurgents since they started their

war against the Sandinists two years ago.

Nicaragua's vice defence minister, Commandant Joaquin Cuadra, said Thursday night the offensive was a desperate attempt by the insurgents to show that the funds they were receiving from the United States were being put to good use.

Congress has approved \$24 million in covert aid to the Nicaraguan guerrillas and President Reagan is trying to obtain a further \$21 million.

The latest upsurge in the two-year-old war against Nicaragua's ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front came against the background of growing international controversy over the role of the U.S. Central Int-

elligence Agency (CIA) in mining Nicaraguan ports (See page 8).

At least 10 vessels, including ships from Japan, the Netherlands, Panama, Liberia and the Soviet Union, have been damaged since early March by mines reported to have been sown by agents of the CIA, which arms and finances the insurgents.

Internal Trade Minister Dionisio Marengo said Thursday the attempted blockade was having a devastating effect on the economy, already drained by U.S. military and economic pressure.

Shortages of goods ranging from toothpaste to chicken have become part of daily life in Nicaragua.

The government has consistently blamed the United States and the insurgents it backs.

Algeria, S. Yemen help in PLO search for unity

PARIS (R) — Envoys of two Palestinian factions have arrived in Algiers amid continuing efforts by South Yemen and Algeria to restore unity within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the Algerian News Agency (APS) reported Thursday.

The two men, representing the Democratic and Popular Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP and PFLP), arrived in Algiers Wednesday and will meet President Chadli Benjedid, APS, monitored in Paris, said.

They told APS their visit was aimed at preparing a summit meeting between Fatah leader and PLO chief Yasser Arafat, DFLP head Nayef Hawatme and PFLP chief George Habash.

The three groups are the main components of the PLO whose executive committee is chaired by Mr. Arafat. Mr. Hawatme and Mr. Habash remained neutral during the fighting between Arafat loyalists and Syrian-backed Fatah dissidents.

Both criticised Mr. Arafat for meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo last December following his forced evacuation from north Lebanon.

The Arafat-Hawatme-Habash talks would prepare a session in the Algerian capital of the Palestine National Council, the organisation's parliament-in-exile, which last met in Algiers in March 1983.

Rafael Salah, a PFLP politburo member, told the APS a summit between the three was needed to reach a consensus between all PLO organisations before convening a session of the parliament otherwise it could lead to a split within the PLO.

He said "sincere efforts" were underway, with Algerian and South Yemeni aid, "to restore PLO unity, preserve its nationalist political line and protect its achievements".

Mr. Benjedid Wednesday received a South Yemeni envoy and Palestinian sources in Beirut said Arafat could act as a mediator in an Arafat-Hawatme-Habash meeting, possibly next week.

Mr. Salah said recent contacts succeeded in drafting a text aimed at unifying Palestinian positions around a common vision of various issues, "including Mr. Arafat's visit to Egypt and the negative impact it had on Palestinian national unity".

The text has been forwarded to Fatah's Central Committee by the South Yemeni ruling Socialist Party, Mr. Salah said, adding that he hoped the dialogue with Fatah could lead to results allowing a meeting of the Palestine National Council.

Lebanon steps up efforts for Israeli pullout

BEIRUT (R) — As part of a stepped-up diplomatic offensive against the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon, the Lebanese government has decided to protest to the U.N. Security Council about Israel's latest measures isolating the region from the rest of the country.

President Amin Gemayel and Foreign Minister Elie Salem also decided Wednesday night to back a recommendation by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar that the role of U.N. troops in South Lebanon should eventually be expanded to include helping the government regain control over the area.

Mr. Salem said the diplomatic initiative was "an important turning point in Lebanon's efforts to liberate the south and restore national sovereignty over the region."

In a related development Mr. Gemayel Thursday had a second meeting in 24 hours with U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew. Washington is Israel's principal ally and Lebanese sources said South Lebanon was discussed at both meetings.

Israel's almost total isolation of occupied South Lebanon for the past two weeks has caused alarm in Lebanon about its possible intention to annex the region.

(Israel has no intention of cutting South Lebanon off from the rest of the country permanently, a senior Israeli official said in occupied Jerusalem Thursday while briefing correspondents).

Israeli troops have cut the last road link to South Lebanon for all but two days since March 29, allowing through only a trickle of vehicles. Telephone and telex links are also cut.

Truckers and travellers are forced to wait at the mountain crossing for up to a week without shelter. Israel says the measures are intended to stop guerrilla attacks on its troops but the effect on the south's economy has been harsh.

The government's diplomatic offensive, which came during a relative lull in the fighting in Beirut Thursday, follows its abrogation last month of a U.S.-mediated accord with Israel on the withdrawal of Israeli troops.

The May 1983 pact was rejected by Lebanese Muslims and Syria because it envisaged a continued Israeli security presence in the south and limited Lebanese security forces in the area.

But the abrogation left Mr. Gemayel without leverage to achieve an Israeli withdrawal and he has since been under pressure, particularly from Shi'ite militia leader Nabih Berri, to take new steps to liberate the largely Shi'ite-inhabited region.

According to Wednesday night's announcement, Mr. Gemayel and Mr. Salem decided Lebanon should protest against Israeli measures in the south during a U.N. Security Council debate on renewing the mandate of the 5,688-strong U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The latest six-month mandate of the 10-nation force, which has been deployed since 1978 near the Israeli border, expires next Thursday and the debate on its renewal is likely to be stormy.

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Egypt's air defence protects Khartoum

ATAKA MOUNTAINS, Egypt (R) — Egypt has established an air defence system to protect its close ally Sudan against hostile incursions, Egyptian Defence Minister Field Marshal Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala said Thursday.

He was speaking to reporters while watching major Egyptian military manoeuvres, in which mechanised troops, supported by Soviet, U.S. and French-made jets, beat off an "enemy" attack near the Suez Canal.

Foreign Military attaches and United Arab Emirates (UAE) military delegation watched the closing stages of the four-day exercises from a rocky plateau in the Ataka Mountains, 85 kilometres east of Cairo.

Marshall Abu Ghazala said Egypt had a few hundred men in Sudan to operate an air defence system "to secure the skies of Khartoum and its outskirts. Omdurman."

A lone aircraft, identified as a Soviet-built Tupolev TU-22 bomber, bombed Omdurman on March 16. Sudan blamed Libya, which denied any involvement.

The United States sent two AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) aircraft to monitor the Egyptian and Sudanese borders. But reports from Washington said the planes have now returned home.

Asked about its possible fall, he said: "The picture would be changed and that could lead to the involvement of other powers like the United States."

If Iranian troops moved southwards, he said, "there would have to be a quick move by the Arab League."

Basra, 55 kilometres north of Kuwait, is near the Iranian border on the Shatt Al Arab waterway leading inland from the Gulf.

Mr. Sabah said the Gulf war was the chief item on his agenda in Washington, but he also discussed possible arms purchases and would be looking at new weapons on visits later this week to military bases in Colorado, Nevada and California.

He said he was interested in missiles and fighter aircraft, but would not be more specific. Kuwait fears Iran might win the war with Iraq and spread its revolutionary brand of religion to more conservative Islamic states in the area.

The United States has stayed neutral in the three-year-old war, but shares Kuwait's concern. Mr. Sabah said both Iran and Iraq were Kuwait's friends and said his country was trying to negotiate an end to the fighting.

He said Kuwait had not been asked to let U.S. forces use its air fields or naval bases as staging areas if the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force was sent to protect the region's oil sources.

The United States is looking for forward bases to augment those it already has in Oman and elsewhere.

Mr. Sabah said that to improve the region's defences the eight members of the Gulf Co-operation Council recently staged joint military manoeuvres and were planning more.

The council was also seriously considering manufacturing its own munitions and guns instead of buying them abroad. Sabah said he was not concerned about suggestions by candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination to move the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Recalling that he had been Kuwait's ambassador in Washington in the early 1970s, he said he felt that the proposals were just campaign politics to win Jewish votes.

But he said if the embassy were moved it would be of great concern not only to Muslims in the area but to the entire Islamic World, which considers Jerusalem one of its holiest cities.

Austria plans new Mideast initiative

VIENNA (R) — Austrian Foreign Minister Erwin Lang, who leaves on Saturday for a tour of five Arab States, said Thursday his country was planning new initiatives aimed at helping to resolve the Middle East conflict.

"We think it is time to re-activate the Middle East policy of former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky," he said.

The Austrian minister will hold talks with Arab leaders during his 10-day official tour of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait. But he added it would be unwise to give details on what Austria planned to do in the near future.

"We have a special relationship with the Arab countries and the Palestinians mainly thanks to Dr. Kreisky and we are obviously interested in peace in this region as well as in humanitarian problems connected with the permanent warfare there but talking too much could spoil things," Mr. Lang said.

The minister did, however, confirm that the Austrian ambassador to Greece, Herbert Amry, was involved in talks for the exchange of prisoners between Israel and a radical Palestinian group.

"One round of talks was held and I hope it will be continued. That's all I can say about it," he said.

Austria successfully mediated in an exchange of Israeli-Palestinian prisoners last year after Dr. Kreisky negotiated with Palestinian and Israeli representatives.

The former chancellor has been actively involved in Middle East affairs since the early 1970s, heading three fact-finding missions from the Socialist International seeking a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In 1980, Dr. Kreisky became the first Western leader to receive Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Leader Yasser Arafat. He has said repeatedly Israel ought to recognise the PLO and accept an independent Palestinian state on its occupied territories.

Mr. Lang said Thursday that during his forthcoming tour he would also discuss prospects of expanding scientific and economic co-operation.

Austrian Chancellor Fred Sinowatz also recently toured the Middle East.

U.S. could be drawn into Gulf war

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and other powers could be drawn into the Gulf war if the Iraqi port of Basra fell to Iran, Kuwaiti Defence Minister Salim Al Sabah said.

Speaking at a news conference Wednesday after three days of talks with U.S. officials, including Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger and National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, Mr. Sabah said the fall of Basra would change the situation in the war.

Asked about its possible fall, he said: "The picture would be changed and that could lead to the involvement of other powers like the United States."

If Iranian troops moved southwards, he said, "there would have to be a quick move by the Arab League."

Basra, 55 kilometres north of Kuwait, is near the Iranian border on the Shatt Al Arab waterway leading inland from the Gulf.

Mr. Sabah said the Gulf war was the chief item on his agenda in Washington, but he also discussed possible arms purchases and would be looking at new weapons on visits later this week to military bases in Colorado, Nevada and California.

He said he was interested in missiles and fighter aircraft, but would not be more specific. Kuwait fears Iran might win the war with Iraq and spread its revolutionary brand of religion to more conservative Islamic states in the area.

The United States has stayed neutral in the three-year-old war, but shares Kuwait's concern. Mr. Sabah said both Iran and Iraq were Kuwait's friends and said his country was trying to negotiate an end to the fighting.

He said Kuwait had not been asked to let U.S. forces use its air fields or naval bases as staging areas if the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force was sent to protect the region's oil sources.

The United States is looking for forward bases to augment those it already has in Oman and elsewhere.

Mr. Sabah said that to improve the region's defences the eight members of the Gulf Co-operation Council recently staged joint military manoeuvres and were planning more.

The council was also seriously considering manufacturing its own munitions and guns instead of buying them abroad. Sabah said he was not concerned about suggestions by candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination to move the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Recalling that he had been Kuwait's ambassador in Washington in the early 1970s, he said he felt that the proposals were just campaign politics to win Jewish votes.

But he said if the embassy were moved it would be of great concern not only to Muslims in the area but to the entire Islamic World, which considers Jerusalem one of its holiest cities.

Iranians vote for new parliament on Sunday

BAHRAIN (R) — Iran holds general elections on Sunday for a new 270-member Majlis (parliament), with Muslim clergy supporters of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini expected to remain dominant.

The make-up of the new assembly could give some indication as to the popularity of the mullahs (clergy) but it is unlikely to change Iran's direction on such major issues as the three-and-a-half-year-old war with Iraq, according to diplomats in Tehran.

The new Majlis will replace the Islamic Republic's first parliament, elected in 1980 more than a year after the revolution which overthrew the monarchy.

Most of the existing deputies are standing again and any change of face is more likely to reflect a shift towards either more radical or more conservative clergymen, rather than any opposition to Khomeini or his policies, according to the diplomats.

Although there is opposition among Iran's minority middle class to the dominating role of the clergy in Iranian politics, many middle class Iranians support the war effort, feeling that Iran was wronged when Iraq started the conflict by invading Iran in September 1980, the diplomats say.

"We weariness in Iran is a red herring," one experienced Western diplomat told Reuters by telephone from Tehran.

In any case, most of the major war decisions are taken by Khomeini, as supreme commander of the armed forces, and his closest military and clergy aides. The Majlis is more taken up with domestic issues.

Iran's leaders and media have billed Sunday's elections as a major step in the progress of the revolution. "Voting is a religious

and moral obligation," senior Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri told the nation in a recent statement.

Critics of the clergy's role in politics, however, say the candidates have been either hand-picked by Islamic groups or carefully vetted by numerous revolutionary bodies to ensure that no "counter-revolutionary elements" slip through.

The country's religious minorities were allowed to put forward candidates and a handful of Armenians, Jews, Zoroastrians and Assyrians will appear on the ballot lists.

The critics also question the significance of the Majlis's role in Iran, pointing to the fact that all legislation it passes must be approved by the so-called Guardian Council, a watchdog body set up to ensure that laws are in line with Islamic tenets.

Six of the council's 12 members are appointed directly by Khomeini while the others are chosen by the judiciary and approved by parliament, a process which makes them unlikely to be opposed to the Iranian leadership.

Standing again as a deputy for Tehran is the present Majlis Speaker Hajj Hossein Hashemi Rastanjani, popular for his nationalistic speeches at Tehran Friday prayers, who is widely expected to be re-elected and to regain the speaker's mantle.

Most diplomats in Tehran expect the clergy, and particularly the big Islamic Republican Party (IRP), to continue dominating the new assembly.

As a result of the strong role of the mosques in present politics, the majority of Iranians — poor, devout Muslims from city slums or outlying villages — are likely to follow the advice of their local mullahs.

The first Majlis elections in 1980 were disrupted by ethnic Kurdish guerrillas in north-west Iran, seeking autonomy for their area. But the guerrillas have since been pushed back from their stronghold towns to the mountains along the Iraqi border and are thought unlikely to be able to cause major disturbances this time.

Dr. Mohammed Hussein Horani 9852
Grand Arab pharmacy 24051
Hakim pharmacy 21571
Mishri pharmacy 30953
Shakhs pharmacy 44945
Al Mansar pharmacy 51048

Rainbow taxi 37249
Khasan taxi 43620
Ambassador taxi 664660
Karak taxi 666761
Nabla taxi 663003
Jihad taxi 842664

Dr. Adnan Al Naser 2418
Al Ghazwani pharmacy 73791

ZARQA:
Dr. Hisham pharmacy 86632
Al Andalus pharmacy (—)

Jordan Television 73111
Radio Jordan 74111
Ministry of Tourism 42311
Hotel complaints 666412
Police complaints 661176

Telephone:
Information 12
Jordan and Middle East calls 10
Overseas calls 12
Cable or telegram 18
Repair service 11

AMMAN:
Dr. Musa Ahmad Basir 673487

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be little cold, with low clouds and scattered showers. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Amman, it will be dusty and partly cloudy, with southerly fresh winds and rough seas.

Low/high temperature in deg.C
Amman 12/26
Aqaba 10/20
Deserts 10/27
Jordan Valley 16/29

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 29, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 20 per cent, Aqaba 17 per cent.

UPPER TOWERS price in Jds per kg.
Apples 350/300
Bananas 280/240
Beans (Mukammal) 240/210
Beans 220/180
Cabbage 130/100
Carrot 150/120
Cauliflower (white) 150/120
Chestnut 400/350
Cucumber (large) 170/130
Cucumber (small) 250/200
Dates 180/150
Eggplant (large) 130/100
Eggplant (small) 140/110
Garlic 400/300
Grapes (black) 700/600
Grapes (white) 700/500

Grapes (black) 700/600
Grapes (white) 700/500
Lemon 400/300
Lemon 400/300
Mango (large) 170/130
Mango (small) 250/200
Melon 220/180
Olives 350/200
Onion (dry) 170/140
Onion (wet) 150/100
Oranges (Aba Samra) 380/250
Oranges (Shamoud) 300/250
Pears 500/450
Pepper (sweet) 320/280
Pepper (hot green) 440/400
Potatoes 150/120
Tangerine 350/300

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	MAIN CHANNEL	21:55	News Summary
16:00	Koran	22:00	Play of the Week
16:15	Cartoons	22:05	News Summary
16:40	Soccer: Jordan's Ramtha vs. Egypt's Tarsus	22:10	News Headlines
18:20	Local Programme	06:00	News Headlines
18:30	Whiz Kids	06:05	News Summary
19:20	Programme Review	06:10	News Summary
19:30	Local Programme	06:15	News Summary
20:00	News in Arabic	06:20	News Summary
20:30	Arabic Series	06:25	News Summary
21:30	Local Programme	06:30	News Summary
22:10	Arabic Series	06:35	News Summary
22:30	News in Arabic	06:40	News Summary
23:10	Play Continued	06:45	News Summary
FOREIGN CHANNEL	18:00	French Programme	
19:00	News in French	19:00	News in French
19:30	News in Hebrew	19:30	News in Hebrew
20:30	Comedy: Jennifer Slept Here	20:30	Comedy: Jennifer Slept Here
21:00	Portrait of Power: Queen Elizabeth II	21:00	Portrait of Power: Queen Elizabeth II
21:30	Saturday Variety Show	21:30	Saturday Variety Show
22:00	News in English	22:00	News in English
22:15	Feature Film: The Candidate	22:15	Feature Film: The Candidate
	Robert Redford, Peter Boyle		Robert Redford, Peter Boyle
RADIO JORDAN	835 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.60 KHz, SW		
07:00	Light Music		
07:30	News		
08:00	Morning Show		
08:30	News Summary		
09:00	Morning Show		
10:00	News Summary		
11:00	News Summary		
11:30	Pop Session		
12:00	News Summary		
13:00	Pop Session		
14:00	News Bulletin		
14:10	Jordan Weekly		
14:30	Music		
15:00	Concert Hour		
16:00	News Summary		
16:30	Instrumentals		
17:00	Old Favorites		
17:30	Special Features		
18:00	Music		
18:30	News Summary		
19:00	Top Twenty		
19:30	News		
20:00	Date with a Star		
20:30	Good Old Days		
21:00	Just A Minute		
21:30	News Summary		
21:45	Country Music		

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	EXHIBITIONS		
Paintings exhibition by Jordanian Artist Hisham Shamoudi at the Goele Institute.	"4ème Exposition d'Arts Plastiques", starts at the French Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.		
"Computer and Electronic Equipment" exhibition starts at the Holiday Inn Hotel.			
VIDEO	CULTURAL CENTRES		
"Marie Antoinette" starts at the French Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m.	Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610267 American Centre - 42371 British Council - 36147-8 Goethe Institute - 37009 Soviet Cultural Centre - 42203 Spanish Cultural Centre - 24049 Turkish Cultural Centre - 39777 Haya Arts Centre - 665195 Hussein Youth City - 667181 Y.W.C.A. - 664251 Amman Municipal Library - 36111 University of Jordan Library - 843555		
MUSEUMS	CHURCHES		
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Jordanian artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30172. Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dat-	St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh, 37440. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541. St. Ephraim Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 41559. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 72621. Syrian Catholic Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751. Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 663249.		
PRAYER TIMES	VOICES OF AMERICA		
06:40 (Sunrise) Fajr 07:07 (Sunrise) Shuruq 11:37 (Sunrise) Dhuhur 15:17 (Sunrise) Asr 18:05 (Sunrise) Maghrib 19:29 (Sunrise) Isha	1260 MW, 7200, 9565, 11740 11925 and 13210 KHz. 06:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour; news summaries; daily business reports; science and medicine; sports reports; editorial; world and U.S. opinion roundups; documentary analysis; American viewpoints; features 17:00 News 17:10 This Week 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News		

FOR THE TRAVELLER

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Airia Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53250, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

07:00	Cairo (MS)
08:05	Aqaba (RJ)
09:30	Jeddah (RJ)
09:35	Dubai (RJ)
09:45	Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
10:00	Cairo (RJ)
10:25	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:25	Larnaca (CY)
10:40	Kuwait (KU)
10:40	Belgrade, Istanbul (RJ)
10:45	Larnaca (RJ)
11:10	Paris, Damascus (AF)
11:15	New York, Vienna (RJ)
11:15	Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ)
11:30	Copenhagen, Athens (RJ)
12:30	Cairo (RJ)
12:45	Rome, Damascus (AZ)
13:00	Tripoli (RJ)
13:05	Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
13:05	Cairo (MS)
13:15	Cairo (RJ)
14:05	Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

10:10	Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
10:15	Cairo (RJ)
10:30	Aqaba (RJ)
10:35	Cairo (MS)
10:35	Athens (RJ)
10:40	Tripoli (RJ)
10:45	Vienna, New York (RJ)
10:55	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:05	Larnaca (CY)
11:10	Paris, London (RJ)
11:15	Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
11:20	Rome, Madrid (RJ)
11:25	Larnaca (RJ)
11:30	Cairo (RJ)
11:30	Kuwait (KU)
11:35	Kowat, Dhabran (RJ)
11:40	Jeddah (RJ)
11:45	Cairo (RJ)
11:50	Cairo (RJ)
12:00	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
12:05	Cairo (MS)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

- Radomychil
- Cape K Gate
- Dyd Pacific
- Gorum
- Pharos
- Felice
- Arabella
- Forney
- Saudi Al Qascom

Anisa Kaver and Sons Company, Tel: 22324 (six lines) at your service.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell/buy rates in ffs

Belgian franc	69.31	69.5
Dutch guilder	128.33	128.6
Egyptian guinea	314.5	316.8
French franc	46	46.3
Iraqi dinar	360.2	363.3
Italian lire (for 100)	22.8	23
Japanese yen (for 100)	165.2	166.2
Kuwaiti dinar	1259.1	1262.5
Lebanese lira	64.5	65.5
Omani rial	1065	1071.2
Qatari rial	101.1	101.8
Saudi riyal	105.1	105.5
Swiss franc	47.5	47.8
Swedish crown	170.4	171.4
Syrian lire	52.4	53.1
UAE dirham	100.4	101
U.K. sterling pound	529.7	532.9
U.S. dollar	369	371
W. German mark	141.4	142.2

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be little cold, with low clouds and scattered showers. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be dusky and partly cloudy, with southerly fresh winds and rough seas.

Low/high temperature in deg.C

Amman	13/26
Aqaba	17/30
Deserts	10/27
Jordan Valley	16/29

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 20 per cent, Aqaba 17 per cent.

Dentists are important elements in medical team, Ajlouni says

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Health Kamel Al Ajlouni said Thursday that dentists are a very important element in the medical team to achieve a comprehensive basic health care, and that the attainment of a comprehensive health care does not only mean the integration of a whole team but the fair distribution of health services in all the areas of the Kingdom.

Speaking at the opening session of the third Jordanian Dental Conference, deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Dr. Ajlouni pointed out that some of the areas in the country of a population between 10,000-20,000 lack primary dental clinics.

Dr. Ajlouni pointed out that the dentistry profession is not anymore a luxury as previously thought of but is an essential element for physical safety for people of all ages.

The minister of health in his addressing speech stressed the importance of school dental health for students constitute one-third of the country's population. "It is impossible to separate dental health from mouth infections nor from general health for it is all connected together."

Dr. Ajlouni also stressed the necessity for a fair distribution of dental services equally in the city, rural, urban and desert areas. "The 878 dentists registered in the Jordanian Dentist Association (JDA) should all be employed and their services should include all areas and focusing on one special region should be avoided."

Concluding his speech, Dr. Ajlouni called on the conference to concentrate on the distribution of dental services in the country and adopt proper planning to support "this part of general health and we have first of all to prevent dental

diseases and then to cure it in all possible way."

At the opening session of the two-day conference which is organised by the JDA scientific committee, its chairman Dr. Walid Maraga also addressed the conference pointing out that the aim of the conference is to spread out the scientific benefits to the dentists.

Dr. Maraga said the session on the dental school health which was the first topic to start with indicates the strong feelings of responsibility and duty by dentists towards promoting the country as well as it indicates the realisation of dentists that the primary school dental care is an important objective for every one concerned with the citizens' general health.

JDA President Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Hajj Ahmad, also addressing the audience at the opening session pointed out that this conference differs from the previous conferences and it focuses on promoting dental health services manifested in the sessions specialised in school dental care.

Dr. Ahmad stressed on the importance of preventing dental diseases in the early stages by spreading dental services for near and remote areas.

He expressed hope that the JDA can have an active role in the Higher Health Council and called on to encourage dentists to work in rural and remote areas particularly that "the number of dentists is increasing every year and will increase more when the dentists department opens at the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University."

During the two-day conference which was concluded Friday, 16 papers were featured on various fields of dentistry. Oral surgery and medicine, prostatics, orthodontics, forensic dentistry, dental implantology and general dentistry were the main topics lectured.

Participants at the conference, include representatives from the ministries of health and education, the Royal Medical Services, the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the Water Authority as well as from universities in Damascus and Baghdad.

Representatives from World Health Organisation, the University of Bordeaux in France and experts from American universities also participated in the conference.

During the conference, dental films programme were shown. The film programme is organised by Dr. Abdul Fattah Bustani in co-operation with the American Dental Association in Chicago and the British Council in Amman.

At the end of the conference many recommendations were adopted in order to promote dental health care all over the country. One of the recommendations is to increase school health budget as well as to increase movable dental clinics.

The recommendations also include the establishment of fixed dental clinics for school children in all districts and governorates to reach in future one clinic for every 4,000 students.

It also called for focusing attention on dental health education by the various press in the country, as well as in private and public schools.

The conference also recommended to increase the number of dentists in the UNRWA so as to have one dentist for every 4,000 people.

Mrs. Sharaf visits Social Development Centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Laila Sharaf, accompanied by Dr. Sirri Nasser, head of Sociology Department at the University of Jordan Thursday visited the Social Development Centre in Sweileh.

During the visit, Mrs. Sharaf toured the various sections of the centre and was briefed by Dr. Nasser on the objectives of the centre.

Phosphate deals clinched with four countries

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC) has reached agreement with companies in four countries to sell them 1,455,125 tonnes of Jordanian phosphates, according to JPMC Director-General Wasef Azar who has just concluded a tour of the four countries concerned.

Speaking in an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, at the conclusion of his week-long tour, Mr. Azar said that agreement has been signed with India to purchase 775,000 tonnes, of which 125,000 tonnes will be shipped over the coming few months.

A number of Japanese firms have signed agreements to buy 300,000 tonnes of phosphates during the present year, and this figure could rise to 350,000, Mr. Azar said.

In South Korea, he said, he signed contracts to sell 40,000 tonnes of phosphates to one firm and 90,000 to another.

Mr. Azar said he also signed a contract to sell Poland 250,000 tonnes of phosphates.

JPA board postpones meeting

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An annual meeting for the Jordanian Pharmacist Association (JPA) could not take place on Friday for failure to get the required quorum thus postponing the awaited association general assembly decision on the future of the association's board till April 27.

A row that has emerged between the president of the association and its board had culminated with a collective resignation of eight of the 11 board members last week.

The resigned members accused the president of "bypassing the board resolutions and acting unilaterally" and therefore called for his resignation. Friday's meeting, if held, was supposed to resolve the row by choosing between three options:

— to patch up differences between the board and the president.

— to support the eight members in their call for the resignation of the president.

— to dissolve the board and call for new elections within a month's time.

The Jordan Times talked to pharmacists who turned out Friday morning and detected a tendency towards choosing the third option.

Several pharmacists, in fact, pointed out that as per the JPA law, if more than five council members resign, the board is automatically dissolved and new elections should be called.

They said that dissolving the council "is not necessarily a step directed against the president but it is simply abiding to the law".

Calling for a new election, to replace the council that has Friday finished half of its two-year term, is considered, however, an aim that the eight members who resigned meant to achieve when they

embarked on their action.

Results of last year's elections brought to the council candidates of three slates with different ideological inclinations. The president, Mr. Ghaleb Sabbarini, who made a landslide victory was one of two contenders who belonged to the same slate. The other eight, who resigned this year, belonged to the two other slates.

Supporters of the members expressed the view that election of a new council might bring up "a harmonious council," which they consider to be for the best of the association. Therefore, observers believe that the "main reason behind the collective resignations is not solely the president's alleged violations of the council decisions, but it is rather dissatisfaction with the present council complexion."

Supporters of the president, on their turn, say that "it is undemocratic to hamper the functions of the association just because any group or block in the association is not satisfied with the council's complexion". A point which is resented by those who supported the collective resignation and who argue that "the present formation of the council is actually hindering the functions of the association."

Minister of Health Dr. Kamel Ajlouni, who was compelled to interfere last week, has frozen the collective resignation. The minister's step was praised by both supporters of the president and by members who did not approve the principle of collective resignation

as means to solve the differences. They viewed the freezing of the resignations "as a positive step."

But the minister's decision to freeze the resignation did not appeal to those who see the final solution to be a dissolution of the council and a call for new elections.

The Jordan Times has learnt that an arbitration committee including the mayor of Amman, Mr. Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, is expected to meet with Dr. Ajlouni Saturday and request the dissolution of the council.

The sources said that "a memorandum" prepared by the legal advisor of the JPA will be distributed by the members who resigned explaining the legal aspects of their action and demand of dissolving of the council.

The JPA sources told the Jordan Times that the memorandum states that the decision to freeze the resignations "contradicts the JPA law hence there is article in the law that ties resignations from the association to the approval of any party."

Consequently the memorandum states "the resignations are considered in effect from the moment they are registered in the JPA files." The memorandum explains that the demand for new elections are in consistency with

article 41 of the JPA law which states that the council is considered dissolved if five of the members submit their resignations and new elections should be held.

Meanwhile, JPA members were not fully informed about "the unilateral actions" which Mr. Sabbarini was accused of and which have brought out the collective resignation.

One of the council members who resigned refused to pinpoint the Jordan Times specific incidents which proves the accusation stating that a memorandum on the reasons which led for the collective resignation will be distributed among the association members when the JPA convenes two weeks later.

"It is not appropriate for the members to know the reasons from the press," he said.

The member's statement and refraining to talk to the press might have stemmed from the fact that the JPA members dismay that they knew about the collective resignation from the press! "We turned out today to express our dismay with what is going on at the JPA", a young pharmacist told the Jordan Times. "What made it worse was that we were the last to know about the whole problem," he added.

IN MEMORIAM

A mass will be held in memory of
CHARLES KETTANEH Jr.

who passed away on April 9, 1984 in New York.
It will take place at St. Joseph's Church, 1st Circle,
Jabal Amman on Sunday April 15, at 6 p.m.

WANTED

SOPEXA — Is in need for some girls to work in promoting French food.
Apply in person to:
Jerusalem Advertising Agency
Shmeisani - Next to Commodore Hotel
Between 3:30 - 7:00 p.m. on April 14, 15, 16th 1984.

WANTED

A house consisted of three bedrooms, salon, dining room, two bathrooms, centrally heated is required for rent.
Location: Jabal Amman (from 5th Circle to 8th Circle.)
Please call tel. no. 39181 Amman.

INSTITUTION CHATEAU MONT-CHOISI International Boarding School for Girls

Bd de la Foret
1012 Lausanne (Lake of Geneva)
Tel: 021/28.87.77

A complete and challenging academic programme is offered to girls 12 to 20, utilising the finest and most modern facilities in Switzerland.

- Intensive study of French and English
- Complete American high school programme; grades 7-12 (CEE: PSAT, SAT, ACH, TOEFL)
- International college/university guidance and placement
- Secretarial and commercial courses in French or English
- Computer science
- Activities: music, sports, cultural excursions
- Winter vacations in Crans in the Swiss Alps (supervised)
- Summer programme for the study of French, English, and computer science.

Mr. Stephen R. Potter, Director of the American Programme, will be in Amman, Hotel Jordan Intercontinental, April 15-18 between 4:00 & 6:00, to present a short film introducing the school and to answer inquiries about education at Institution Chateau Mont-Choisi.
For private interviews, please make an appointment through the hotel.

Wadi Araba to get 500 housing units

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 500 housing units will be constructed in Wadi Araba in the South Jordan Valley. Sawt Al Sha'ab daily newspaper quoted Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) sources as saying.

The housing project, the sources said, will cost between JD 1.5 to JD 2 million and will be completed within 18 months.

During this year an amount of JD 300,000 will be spent on the project, while the balance will be covered through the JVA Housing Fund, and through foreign aids and loans in addition to loans by the treasury through the Housing Bank.

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By Franz Schurmann

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Out of Lebanon, deeper into the Gulf

SAN FRANCISCO—Early in March, the top-rated U.S. television network CBS showed some five minutes of coverage on Beirut. First they showed East Beirut. There was a shot of a nightclub with disco music. Then there was a scene with a policeman directing traffic—it looked like Athens or Paris. Then there was another shot of a pretty girl and her boyfriend in a restaurant. People looked prosperous. The commentator noted that "most people had a house in the country." And then there were shots of pleasant country homes.

For the other half of the coverage, the camera crew went to West Beirut. It showed the rubble from destruction, lots of it. And apartment houses crammed to overflowing with people. All looked poor. Some looked dazed from the fighting. There were many young men with rifles, some still children. There were pictures everywhere of the Ayatollah

Khomeini and Lebanon's vanished Imam Musa Sadr. I asked myself many questions on seeing this coverage. First I wondered why they had not done it before. There was nothing new in this. They could have done it back in the summer of 1982 when the Israelis invaded. Maybe they did. But I did not see it. And in any case I doubt it. The shots they showed then of West Beirut were of the Rue Hamra, the Fifth Avenue of West Beirut, or the American Embassy and the American University. The poorer parts of West Beirut only appeared when the U.S. Marines were being fired on. And we American TV viewers got glimpses of tall apartment buildings from which Amal fighters were shooting at Americans.

Then, second, I wondered why they decided to release this coverage then. Here one must say to people outside and inside America that there is no central media planning council in the U.S. Things happen in very accidental ways. If one were to seek out a reason for this particular coverage, one most likely would find out that the CBS crew that night had a big "news hole" and simply reached into their old file to fill it.

Nevertheless, the fact remains that they used it. And they used it at a time when the Iran-Iraq war was reaching a climax. And when the Geneva "reconciliation" talks were scheduled to resume in yet another attempt to bring peace to Lebanon. And they must have used it because the imagery is so powerful—East Beirut is rich and Christian and West Beirut is poor and Muslim. Or, in terms of the television imagery, Shi'ite. And, of course, the political implications were clear: East Beirut is "reactionary" and West Beirut is "revolutionary."

The message that CBS conveyed must have been very clear to viewers. I must add that not that many people watch the news in the U.S. only 1 per cent of all TV viewers. Still the elites watch the news, or as we call them the "opinion-makers and policy-shapers." That message was: there is a mighty revolution going on in the Middle East. And the implication, never spoken, but evident from other CBS coverage and commentaries, was that: We, the U.S., must stay out of it.

The U.S., of course, is not going to stay out of the Middle East. In fact, despite the withdrawal of Marines from Lebanon, it is getting in deeper and deeper. How deep? No one knows. Maybe not even the policy-makers in Washington. We can guess from the scraps of news from the Gulf (Khalij) that U.S. warships may be prepared to escort oil tankers going from Kuwait to Ras Tan-

ura so that the flow of Middle East oil can continue. We have thus replaced the British fleet which left in 1971. So while we pulled back from Lebanon, we are deeper into the Gulf—one step back, one step forward.

Does the one step back also mean pulling back from the Camp David and Reagan plans and the like which sought to impose a solution from the top down on the heads of people on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip? It would seem so. Nobody talks about Camp David or the Reagan plan any more.

There have been many articles about the Shi'ites and the Israelis in southern Lebanon. American newspaper readers know that most of the people in southern Lebanon are Shi'ites and they know of the growing Israeli worry and weariness over their occupation. Looking at the CBS coverage I just mentioned they might say to themselves: Good God, it is good we pulled out of West Beirut. Even if we still like the Israelis, the last things we need is to get involved in so complicated and messy... and bloody a conflict as one which is sparked by family feuds, ethnic hatreds, and now, once again, revolution.

Does this mean the U.S. is going to become less involved in Syria-Lebanon-Israel-West Bank matters and more involved in Gulf matters? It is possible to draw this conclusion.

Maybe I am giving too much significance to this one short television coverage. Yet U.S. TV, over a period of time, creates images that stick to people's minds. The aggregate of images of Lebanon add up to one that commands not getting involved. There are few images on the Gulf beyond everyone's knowledge that the Gulf is vital for world oil supply. If the U.S. is getting more deeply involved there, there is no issue that is being made of it on U.S. TV.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Full partnership

THE \$2 billion U.S. financial aid to Israel, which has recently been approved by the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee is a new and serious aspect which supports the belief that the U.S. is not concerned about its deteriorating credibility in the area, and that it does not find it embarrassing to supply the Israeli aggressors with their financial requirements, thus assisting them not only to go ahead with their terrorist plots against our kinsmen in the occupied Arab territories, but also to prepare for committing a new criminal venture against Iraq. Thus, the U.S. refuses but to perform the role of the full partner who finances acts which do not honour the U.S. nor honour any state which respects its reputation and its status in the world.

The new financial aid reminds us of Washington's refusal to supply Jordan with the anti-aircraft missiles, which Jordan had requested against payment. This incident makes it quite clear that America follows a different trend in dealing with Arabs, since at one time it denies the Arabs the right to get defensive arms, while giving generous assistance to the Israeli aggressors who threaten the whole area.

In the light of this blatant bias, the Arab citizens can not but describe U.S. practices against Arabs as hostile. He also finds it difficult to try to find an interpretation for such a hostile position. He can not say but that the American policy-makers do their utmost to satisfy Israel and that they are Israelis more than the Israelis themselves.

The generous U.S. aid to Israel is the strongest American factor against the establishment of a real and just peace in the area. Moreover, they are capable of aggravating the dangers jeopardising progress in the Middle East area. This fact can not be ignored by the U.S., since in this case it escalates U.S. hostility to the Arabs from a position of lack of credibility to a position of being a full partner with Israel, and thus impeding the establishment of stability in the area.

In order not to make peace subject to the will of the two partners, Arabs have no choice but to work on restoration of peace by their hands and through their self-reliance in all fields, since it is absurd to imagine that some party might serve them peace on a silver plate.

Al Dustour: Tireless effort

THE RECENT visit by His Majesty King Hussein to Iraq and his meetings with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein are parts of King Hussein's untiring efforts to unify the Arab stand and to rally support for the Arab cause. The visit reaffirms Jordan's firm stand towards Iraq and its support of Iraq in its just war against Iraq and the call on Arabs to stand by Iraq in its courageous confrontation of the Iraqis.

Reagan's war against Nicaragua has a dirty precedent

By Anthony Lewis

BOSTON—Most Americans would be surprised, I think, to realize that the United States is today involved in a war of terror and subversion against an internationally recognised government.

War is what the operations of the so-called contras against the Nicaraguan government have become. In two years of funding by the CIA their numbers under arms have grown from a few hundred to 15,000. They raid villages and murder coffee-pickers in the fields. They do heavy economic damage by bombing and mining ports. They use high-powered speedboats to attack shipping in harbour.

The Reagan administration defends all this as realism in a hard world: necessary measures to weaken a leftist government that makes trouble in Central America. But there is a precedent that makes the argument of realism. In June 1954 a coup organised by the CIA removed the elected president of Guatemala, Jacobo

Arbenz. The Eisenhower administration ran a massive disinformation campaign to paint him as a dangerous radical. The CIA called that venture "Operation Success". Some success. In place of a democratic government the United States installed a colonel, Carlos Castillo Armas, and Guatemala began years of military rule, violence, torture and misery—years that have not ended.

Guatemala has the worst civil rights record of any country in South America," Senator Jim Sasser of Tennessee says. Successive military leaders have slaughtered their people in an effort to stamp out rebellion. Amnesty International, in a report this week on the use of torture by governments, mentioned thousands kidnapped in Guatemala between 1978 and 1982, and corpses dumped by roadsides with flesh burned and limbs amputated.

Has the interest of the United States been served in Guatemala? Hardly. Central America's most populous country has become a centre of instability. A historian of the 1954 coup, Ronald Schneider, said 10 years later: "While the short-run outcome of the intervention in 1954 was viewed at the time as a success for the United States in the Cold War, in a larger perspective it is increasingly difficult to see it as such."

"Indeed, in light of subsequent events it might reasonably be considered little short of disaster." The story of the 1954 coup is told in chilling detail in a recent book, "Bitter Fruit," by Stephen Schlesinger and Stephen Kinzer. It is chilling especially because it shows the moral price paid by U.S. officials for involvement in such dirty business. John Foster Dulles, his brother Allen and other Americans appear in shameful postures.

There is a worrying footnote to the Schlesinger-Kinzer book. The authors got a good deal of official information on the U.S. role in the 1954 coup, but they wanted the full records of the CIA. For five years the agency said it had only a few papers. The authors sued under the Freedom of Information Act, and the agency then "discovered" 180,000 documents

on the coup in its library but said they were too sensitive to produce. Last month a federal judge in Washington upheld the CIA's refusal to produce 30-year-old documents. "Conditions in Central America are extremely sensitive today," he said, "and any information about past covert activity by the United States in this area could have harmful effects."

To the contrary, information about what happened when the United States used force and subversion against a Central American government 30 years ago could have highly beneficial effects today. It could prevent repetition of disaster. — The New York Times.

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To the contrary, information about what happened when the United States used force and subversion against a Central American government 30 years ago could have highly beneficial effects today. It could prevent repetition of disaster. — The New York Times.

activities in the area had been checked but a dusk-to-dawn curfew will remain in place.

Nixon, Ford made it possible, Reagan reaps election gains

By Roger Crabb

PEKING—Following in the footsteps of Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, President Ronald Reagan is planning an election-year trip to China in late April to reap the benefits of recently-improved relations.

But while Mr. Nixon was treading virgin soil in February 1972 after decades of Sino-U.S. hostility, Mr. Reagan has the benefit of a dense network of diplomatic, trade, scientific and cultural ties with a huge potential for expansion.

One thing that has not changed since Mr. Nixon and the late Premier Chou Enlai signed the Shanghai Communiqué 12 years ago, is the two governments' fundamental disagreement over nationalised rule in Taiwan.

For the first two years of the Reagan presidency, the Taiwan issue constantly threatened to provoke a full-blown crisis in relations, normalised only in 1979 under President Jimmy Carter.

But since mid-1983 the two sides have shown considerable ingenuity in putting the wrangle to one side and concentrating instead on developing their economic relationship.

Senior Western diplomats said that in the interests of their national modernisation drive, the Chinese had accepted Mr. Reagan's August 1982 commitment to gradually phase out arms sales to Taipei.

The statement was part of a delicately-worded joint communiqué in which China, without giving a pledge, expressed its intention of seeking re-unification with the island by peaceful means.

At its height, the arms-for-Taiwan controversy threatened to disrupt Sino-U.S. relations across the board. China cut cultural links after a young tennis star defected to the U.S., trade stagnated and the sides argued for months about a textile agreement.

Chinese leaders also began describing the United States in the same terms as the Soviet Union, saying they were both hegemonists seeking to dominate weaker countries.

Both sides date the improvement in ties to last May's visit to Peking by Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige, who brought news that the Reagan admin-

istration was at least ready to lift its embargo on exports of "dual purpose" high technology to China.

Such equipment, designed for civilian purposes but with potential military uses, includes computers and other material vital for China's modernisation drive.

China reacted positively and soon a new textile agreement was signed. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger was in Peking offering to sell defensive arms, and Premier Zhao Ziyang and President Reagan agreed to exchange visits.

Diplomats in Peking said that for China to offer Mr. Reagan such a platform during his reelection campaign was a remarkable gesture, signifying that they now felt more comfortable dealing with him.

Despite its use of the hegemonist tag and its criticism of Washington's Central American and Middle East policies, Peking has indicated general approval of the Reagan administration's tough line with Moscow.

Even while deploring risks to world peace caused by "U.S.-Soviet rivalry," Peking commentators make clear that Washington's arms build-up is merely a response to the "Soviet threat."

China has said repeatedly it will not enter into an anti-Soviet strategic alliance with the United States, as some U.S. officials once hoped.

But diplomats believe the two have a basis for co-operation in their shared or similar views on the Soviet presence in Afghanistan, Vietnam's presence in Kampuchea, and the deployment of SS-20 missiles in the Soviet Far East capable of hitting targets in China, Japan and South Korea.

The diplomats also considered the recently-expressed concern by both Peking and Washington to avert an explosion of tensions on the Korean Peninsula as very significant.

But despite the political improvement between the two capitals, the economic relationship remains a minefield of potential problems.

Bilateral trade last year fell to \$4.4 billion, down 15 per cent from the record 1982 figure, largely because of the long textile dispute.

Treasury Secretary Donald Regan, here last month preparing for Mr. Reagan's visit, was

U.S. maize for Zimbabwe politics

By Peter Gregson

HARARE—A U.S. decision to deliver badly-needed food grain to Zimbabwe was connected with agreement by the Harare government to ease a tough security clampdown in troubled Matabeleland. Western diplomats said Wednesday.

The government announced easing of the two-month-old clampdown in the southern province, home of half a million Ndebele people, only hours after the United States signed an agreement on Monday to deliver 30,000 tonnes of staple maize.

Diplomats claimed there was no formal link between the two developments but they were certainly connected. The security measures in southern Matabeleland prompted widespread allegations that the Ndebeles were starving because food could not get through.

The ship carrying the maize is due to arrive next Monday in Port Elizabeth, South Africa from where the grain will be brought to Zimbabwe by rail.

"I'd call this American brinkmanship," one diplomat said. "The clear implication was that if the agreement was not signed by the time the ship was due to dock it would be ordered to carry on and put in somewhere else up the coast where the maize is also needed."

He added: "That is not to say the Zimbabweans gave in to pressure. I think all the Western missions here are pleased that they have acted practically on a matter that was certainly harming their image abroad."

The diplomats said the U.S. had insisted on assurances from Zimbabwe that the maize, a food aid grant worth \$10.9 million, be distributed equitably throughout the country.

Signing the agreement, U.S. Charge D'Affaires Gibson Lanpher said the aid was being provided with the conviction that it would be used "to provide relief to all in need throughout Zimbabwe."

That proviso is essential under U.S. law, one American diplomat said. He denied that the U.S. had demanded the lifting of restrictions on Matabeleland.

"However, we're glad they did that. It's a kind of double bonus," he added.

State Security Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa announced that shops would be allowed to re-open and transport restrictions would be lifted because dissident

activities in the area had been checked but a dusk-to-dawn curfew will remain in place.

The restrictions went into force in early February as troops began a drive against armed dissidents in the region, power-base of opposition leader Joshua Nkomo.

Last week, Father John Gough, an outspoken Catholic critic of former Prime Minister Ian Smith's white minority government, accused the present authorities of genocide against the Ndebeles through the restrictions.

Several diplomats and aid workers said the prospect of losing the U.S. food aid package was only one of a number of factors that led to the easing of conditions in southern Matabeleland.

"The cost of maintaining the army operation alone was one factor," one diplomat said.

"International concern that people... were starving there, foreign press reports and diplomatic pressure here, particularly from the Scandinavians, must all have been taken into consideration," he added.

In his statement, Mr. Mnangagwa said journalists and other interested people would be taken into the area soon "to dispel unfounded allegations" about army conduct.

Diplomats said the maize, the

first Zimbabwe, normally a food exporter, has had to import following a devastating drought throughout southern Africa, would arrive in the three main urban areas of Bulawayo, Oweru and Harare from next week to be distributed through government agencies from there.

Two other major consignments of maize are also on their way to alleviate Zimbabwe's critical food situation.

Diplomats said a convoy carrying 50,000 tonnes of maize from Malawi, 10,000 tonnes given by Britain and the rest purchased by Zimbabwe, had left on the road journey through the northwestern Mozambique province of Tete to Harare.

The route has been made hazardous because of attacks on convoys by terrorists opposing the Mozambique government. The latest attack at the end of March destroyed 14 vehicles.

Road hauliers said they had been assured their vehicles would have military escorts but refused to say if they would be Zimbabwean troops.

The diplomats added that 60,000 tonnes of maize for Zimbabwe arrived in the South African port of Durban last week under a private barter deal exchanging it for tobacco.

Robert Mugabe... getting under the American hammer

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Asia-Oceania Olympic soccer finals begin in Singapore

SINGAPORE (R) — A 10-nation soccer tournament begins here Saturday to decide three Olympic berths from the Asia-Oceania zone.

Asian Cup holders Kuwait and arch-rivals Iraq and New Zealand are strongly tipped to make the journey to the Olympic Games at Los Angeles in July.

Kuwait, who will kick off the 16-day tournament against Bahrain, are supremely confident that they will not only breeze through the Asia-Oceania final round, but also capture an Olympic soccer medal.

Sports officials here said, however, that the other teams from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, South Korea, Japan, Thailand and Malaysia all packed enough power to upset the favourites.

"We want to uphold our prestigious ranking as Asia's number one soccer power. Our target is to win a soccer medal at Los Angeles," said Kuwaiti team manager Prince Sheikh Fahad Al Ahmad.

Kuwait represented Asia in the 1980 Olympics in Moscow and the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain. The Kuwaitis have a star-studded lineup, but the most prominent among them are striker Faisal Ali Al Dakheel and defender Abdul Aziz Al Beloushi.

Iraq, who won the Asian Games gold medal in New Delhi two years ago, said that their prolonged war against Iran had not affected their soccer prowess.

Iraq made it to the quarter-finals before losing to East Germany 1-0 in the 1980 Moscow Olympics. The present team, comprising young players from the military, police and universities, recently won the Palestine Cup in Morocco and the Gulf Cup Championships.

Both the Kuwaitis and Iraqis have vowed to knock out New

Zealand. Kuwait said the Kiwis should not have been included in the tournament because geographically New Zealand does not belong to Asia.

Despite the Arab threat, a possible partisan Asian crowd, and the humid conditions here, New Zealand still remains one of the favourites to stake a claim for the Olympic berth.

Some of their top players who were at the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain have left the squad, but coach Allan Jones said: "I have full confidence in my team."

Saudi Arabia could well emerge as the "dark horse" of the tournament, the officials said. Qatar and South Korea also could not be dismissed lightly, they added.

Japan, the only Asian country to win an Olympic soccer medal when they clinched the bronze in 1968, may cause some shock results, warned coach Takaji Mori.

The tournament is played in two groups. The group champions and the winners of the play-off between the group runners-up will qualify for Los Angeles.

In Group 'A' are Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, New Zealand.

No decision to hold special Olympic meeting

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — The director of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Friday denied that an emergency meeting of the executive board was planned for April 24 to discuss Soviet complaints about the Los Angeles Games.

"No plans have been made to hold a meeting of the executive board in the near future," IOC Director Monique Berlioux told Reuters. However, she left open the possibility that a special meeting of some kind might be called before a scheduled meeting of the executive board at the end of May.

"At the moment, there is no decision," she said.

Earlier this week Moscow condemned U.S. preparations for the

Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles and the Soviet National Olympic Committee (NOC) called for an emergency IOC meeting.

IOC sources said a message was received from the Soviet Olympic Committee this week requesting talks on Moscow's complaints that the U.S. was breaking Olympic rules and mounting an anti-Soviet campaign.

Olympic organisation officials in Los Angeles have denied the charges.

On Thursday the NOC met in Moscow to discuss its approach to the Los Angeles Games and informed Soviet sources said it would probably decide provisionally to attend.

Briton favourite for Boston race

BOSTON (R) — Britain's Geoff Smith has emerged as the man the rest have to beat when a field approaching 7,000 starts the 88th Boston Marathon on Monday.

The 30-year-old from Liverpool qualified for the race after running two hours nine minutes eight seconds in finishing second in the New York Marathon last October.

And his determination to succeed will have been sharpened by the knowledge that victory here will guarantee his selection for Britain's Olympic team.

Many world class runners have chosen to miss the event in favour of competing in the American Olympic trials being held in Buffalo, New York, next month.

Plymouth plan to re-write F.A. Cup history at Villa Park

LONDON (R) — Third division Plymouth make an historic pilgrimage to Birmingham Saturday intent on re-writing English soccer's record books.

No third division side have ever reached the final of the Football Association (F.A.) Cup, but manager John Hore's side, who meet first division Watford in their semi-final at Villa Park, will be seeking to just that.

Plymouth, nicknamed "the Pilgrims", slipped perilously close to the relegation zone on Tuesday night after losing 2-1 at home to Wimbledon. But despite his side's dismal league form, Hore remains confident his side can — and will — dispatch Graham Taylor's impressive Watford to book a trip to Wembley on May 19.

"The cup run has affected the players," he said. "With the cup on our minds we have not been working as hard in our league games. We have been waiting for the semi-final too long."

"Watford are a strong, forceful side but I am more concerned with how we play than how they play."

Meanwhile Watford, also aiming to reach their first F.A. Cup final, have put defender Neil Price

on standby in case fullback Walf Rostron fails to recover from a knee injury. Price has the benefit of knowing more than most about Plymouth — he recently spent a month on loan with the club and was there when the two sides were paired in the semi-final draw.

The other semi-final at Arsenal's Highbury home pairs Southampton and Everton, two rather more experienced cup campaigners.

Southampton, who for much of the season have been the favourites, won the cup for the only time in 1976 after beating then third division Crystal Palace in their semi-final.

But their hopes of returning to Wembley could hinge on whether captain and midfielder inspiration Steve Williams makes a full re-

covery from a knee injury. Williams has missed his side's last three games and pulled up clutching his knee during a practice match Thursday.

Southampton's other injury worries, former England internationals Mick Mills and Frank Worthington are both expected to play.

Everton manager Howard Kendall has already named talented winger Terry Curran as a definite starter for the match but is yet to decide on 10 other names to play alongside him.

Everton, beaten by Liverpool in the League Cup final last month, have undergone a dramatic transformation in their form since the start of the year and will be more than anxious to make up for their League Cup disappointment.

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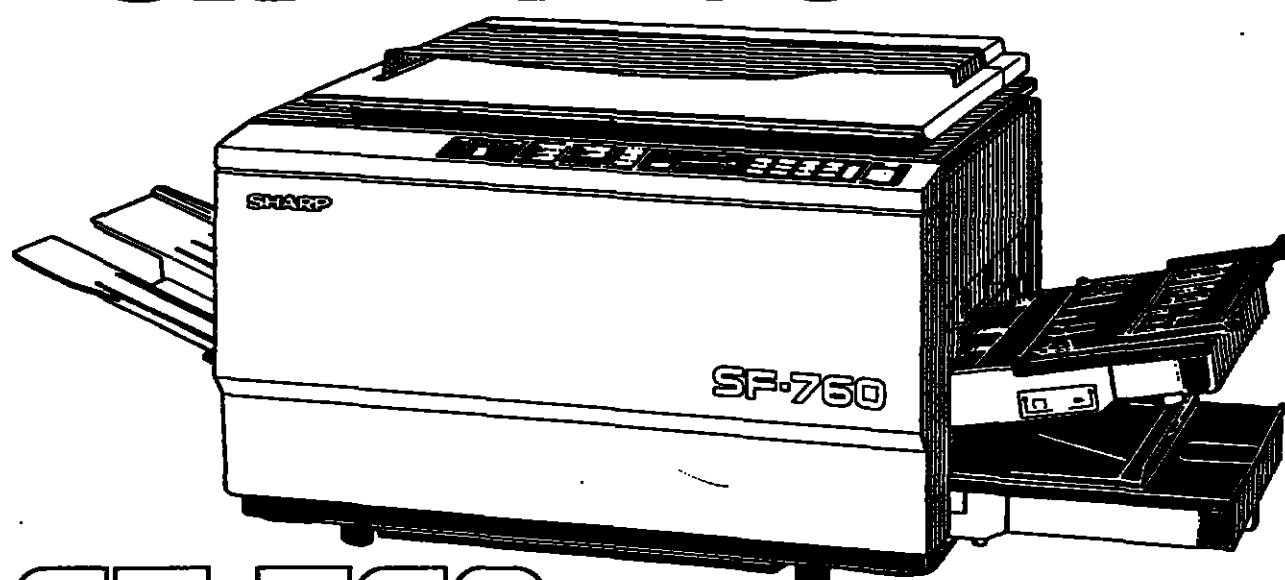
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<p>Cinema CONCORD THE NIGHT OF FATIMA'S ARREST (Colour) "Arabic film"</p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 9:00 p.m. Additional performances: Fridays and Sundays at 10:30 p.m. Car park available.</p>	<p>Cinema AL-HUSSEIN Tel: 22117</p> <p>THE END OF A MARRIED MAN (Colour) Arabic</p> <p>Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8</p>	<p>Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 25155</p> <p>TEXAS LIGHTNING (Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 3:30-6 - 8:30</p>	<p>Cinema ZAHARAN Tel: 23171</p> <p>THE RED AND THE EVIL (Colour) Italian</p> <p>Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8</p>	<p>Cinema BASMAN Tel: 30126</p> <p>BANDHE HATH (Colour) Indian</p> <p>Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8</p>	<p>Cinema PALESTINE Tel: 22117</p> <p>BRUCE LEE THE DRAGON HERO (Karate) (Colour) THE MIGHTY KADAR "Indian film"</p> <p>Performances: 12-3-7</p>	<p>Cinema RAGHADAN Tel: 22198</p> <p>IN QUILAAB (Colour) "Indian film"</p> <p>Performances: 12-3-5:30-8</p>
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Emadi urges Arab states to boost investments in industry, agriculture

ABU DHABI (R) — The head of an Arab economic development fund Thursday urged Arab countries to increase investment in industry and agriculture, which he said faced serious problems.

Dr. Mohammed Al Emadi, director-general of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, said: "Despite the increase in financial support to agriculture and industry to \$3.22 billion in 1983, efforts are still needed to invest more in these two basic sectors which are both deteriorating."

Addressing a conference of Arab development institutes, Dr. Emadi said a number of Arab states which enjoyed agricultural self-sufficiency and surpluses during the 1970s had seen food production decline by a half.

He did not name the countries. Representatives of 13 Arab countries and 200 financial institutions, together with leading Arab economists, are taking part in the three-day conference, the second of its kind organized by the

Arab fund and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development.

Dr. Emadi said food production in the Arab World had been falling at an annual 2.4 per cent rate, and the countries' combined trade deficits in agricultural products had widened to \$18.2 billion in 1982 from \$400 million at the beginning of the 1970s.

He blamed limited irrigation and consequent heavy dependence on uncertain rainfall, the absence of advanced technology and the small area of land in the Arab World suitable for agriculture.

He said the contribution of primary industry, such as mining and oil production, to Arab economies had declined to 38.9 per cent of Gross National Product in 1982 from 46.4 per cent in 1975.

The share of secondary industry showed little change in the period, rising only to 9.5 per cent from 8.2 per cent.

He said secondary industry was

hampered by high operating costs, low productivity, difficulties in coming to terms with technology, low penetration of local markets and an inability to compete with foreign companies.

Loans for agricultural investment by specialised financial institutions in 12 Arab countries came to \$1.8 billion in 1982, 22 per cent of total investment in the sector.

Dr. Emadi called on the institutions to mobilise economic resources and cooperate with Arab development funds.

Mr. Naser Al Noweis, director-general of the Abu Dhabi fund, said the fact that specialised financial institutions were generally dependent on governments or central banks reduced their effectiveness.

He said the institutions were also allocating only a small share of their resources on agricultural and industrial investment compared with the high level of investment in the construction and building sectors.

U.S. retail sales register steepest fall in over a decade

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. retail sales fell by 2.2 per cent in March, the steepest monthly drop in over a decade which suggests that the pace of economic growth has eased.

The news Thursday from the Commerce Department was welcomed by Reagan administration officials. "The decline should be helpful in terms of taking the pressure off interest rates," White House spokesman Mr. Martin Fitzwater said.

And it should offer a bit of relief to economists and investors on Wall Street who feared that the economy was expanding dangerously fast, Mr. Fitzwater said.

The economy appears to be settling down to a more sustainable growth rate that will "hopefully spur some declines" in interest rates, he said.

The unexpectedly sharp downturn in sales was partly due to bitter, late-winter storms that whipped across the country.

The U.S. dollar dipped for a time on financial markets in New York and Europe Thursday after the news because of the thought that further rises in U.S. interest rates might not be necessary to keep inflation in check. But it later

recovered its losses.

The March drop in sales was the largest since they went down 2.4 per cent in December, 1973.

Retail buying activity was also off in February, down by 0.8 per cent from January.

"This is clearly a signal that consumer spending is slowing," said Mr. Robert Wescott of the Wharton Econometric Forecasting Associates in Pennsylvania.

Despite the two consecutive monthly declines, the volume of sales during the first quarter of the year was 3.4 per cent greater than in the preceding three-month period and 13.4 per cent over the first quarter of last year.

In Dallas, President Reagan said Thursday the current rise in U.S. interest rates will be short-lived and predicted that the cost of borrowing will fall again this summer.

"I think before the summer is over we're going to see some interest rates begin to come down," Mr. Reagan told a group of con-

struction workers during a tour of a building site here.

Later, talking with housing industry representatives, he repeated his forecast after being warned by the group that the housing recovery would be aborted if interest rates went much higher.

The recent rise in rates threatens Mr. Reagan's strategy of making economic recovery and lower interest rates one of the dominant themes of his re-election campaign.

Thursday he blamed the rise on fears that faster than anticipated economic growth in the first quarter of this year would cause a new surge in inflation.

Commenting on the report that retail sales fell in March he said it shows "this is a sustainable expansion, not just a quick fix and a spurge" and will not produce new inflation.

He also repeated his call on the Federal Reserve Board to allow enough money into the economy to sustain the expansion.

He said one of the keys to reducing interest rates is liquidity to finance economic growth while maintaining long-term price stability.

Nigeria sacks 3000 civil servants

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's military government, continuing its purge of the bureaucracy, has sacked a further 3,000 civil servants working in federal ministries.

An announcement said most of those sacked, nearly all junior staff, had been dismissed for reasons of health, inefficiency or age.

Since taking power in a Dec. 31 coup, the military have purged many senior civil servants and thousands of workers have been shed from the payrolls of badly indebted state governments.

The government says the aim of what is to be a continuing operation is to produce an efficient bureaucracy out of the currently bloated administration.

Meanwhile, Nigeria's oil output this month has fallen back to the 1.3 million barrels per day (b/d) quota level set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), industry sources said Thursday.

The reduction from around 1.5 million b/d in the first quarter fol-

lowed a government decision last month to fall back to the OPEC quota level.

However, producing companies fear that output after this month could be seriously affected by a delay in getting import licences to bring in badly needed lubricating oil and spare parts.

The companies are waiting anxiously for licences promised by the commerce ministry but which have still not come through.

The shortage of lubricating oils has already forced some companies to close down a few smaller wells, in order to switch their remaining stocks to bigger ones to keep production going.

Shell Nigeria, the biggest producer and 80 per cent owned by the government, has been given a special licence to import such oils after running completely out of stock and intends to fly in a shipment as soon as possible, the sources said.

The sources said the shortages should not affect Nigeria's ability

to produce its quota this month, with most companies having enough stocks left to switch production around.

But now spare parts had joined the list of serious concerns the producers have, with many instances being reported of the last new pieces being taken off the stock shelves and fitted.

"We are living a hand to mouth existence," one source said. "We are going to have to start cannibalising soon. I don't think it (production) will come to a halt but it's very worrying."

The sources said the fears were that a breakdown would be irreparable and there was particular concern about pumping machinery for loading tankers.

Any breakdown there would close down a line for export and in turn would force a production cut because of the low storage capacity in the country, the sources said.

Egypt lifts oil exports

CAIRO (R) — Egypt is exporting an average of 23,000 barrels per day (b/d) of crude oil from a new field in the Gulf of Suez.

Vice chairman for oil products at the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation told Reuters Thursday the Zeit Bay field was "the most important oil discovery in Egypt in the past three years."

Production at Zeit Bay, which began last December, is expected to reach 45,000 b/d by the end of the year and up to 80,000 b/d at its peak, he said. Zeit Bay would help boost Egypt's total crude oil production from 800,000 b/d to an average of 830,000 b/d in the 1984-85 fiscal year starting in July. Crude oil is Egypt's chief export commodity.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares moved off the higher levels on profit-taking, having risen initially in line with the sharp overnight advance of Wall Street, dealers said. At 1500 Friday the F.T. 30 index was up 7.4 to 896.0 compared with 899.9 at 100.

Glaxo ended 17p up at 865 after 870, BTR was up 8p at 487 after 491 but ICI retained a 10p rise at 604.

Government bonds gave up initial 1/4 point gains to close up to 7/16 point lower ahead of the "tap" issue of two tranches of treasury three per cent stock, £100 million for 1986 and £150 million for 1987.

North American were higher and gold shares mostly firmer. Oils were firm on overnight news of renewed fighting in the Iraq-Iran conflict, dealers said. B.P. rose 1 1/2p to 505 as did Shell to 645 while Lasso was up 10p to 345.

Among steady banks Natwest firmed 8p to 672 and Lloyds 7p to 629 but Midland eased a further 5p to 364 on Thursday's news of its U.S. subsidiary Crocker National Corp's \$120.8 million first quarter loss.

Insurances were mixed with Hambro Life down 7p at 433 reacting to its gain on the charterhouse J. Rothschild stake, while Prudential added 7p to 490.

Pleasurama ended 13p lower at 353 on news Grand Met is to sell its holding in the company. Grand Met rose 2p to 340.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.4315/25	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2774/77	Canadian dollars
	2.6165/75	West German marks
	2.9525/35	Dutch guilders
	2.1715/25	Swiss francs
	53.54/57	Belgian francs
	8.0550/0600	French francs
	1622.50/1623.50	Italian lire
	224.10/20	Japanese yen
	7.7800/50	Swedish crowns
	7.5425/75	Norwegian crowns
	9.6150/6200	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	379.80/380.30	U.S. dollars

Copenhagen saves project

COPENHAGEN (R) — The Danish government has agreed to put up \$500 million to save its troubled North Sea natural gas project from bankruptcy, government officials said Thursday.

The project, designed to cut Denmark's oil import bill, was originally intended to break even in 1987.

But a slump in energy demand, falling gas prices and high interest costs on loans mean the scheme is now officially expected to incur a 4.7 billion crown deficit by the year 2005.

An official auditor's report recently blamed bad management and lack of planning for the problems of the project, which is run by the state-owned energy firm Dansk Olie og Naturgas.

Enka doubles profits

ISTANBUL (R) — A leading Turkish contracting, industrial and trading group, Enka Holding Yatirim A.S., said Thursday its pre-tax profits more than doubled in 1983 and revenues rose 95 per cent.

Pre-tax profit rose to 1.1 billion (\$3.36 million) from 441.6 million lira (\$1.35 million) in 1982, while revenues increased to 244 billion lira (\$746.2 million) it said in its 1983 annual report.

The report said its contracting division, providing 41 per cent of earnings, had \$1.95 billion of contracts in hand, \$290 million of which were in Turkey.

It said 52 per cent of the group's foreign contracts were in Libya, with Saudi Arabia next in importance with 36 per cent and the remainder in Iran and Iraq.

A further \$232 million of Saudi Arabian contracts were to be signed this year.

It said the company obtained more than \$500 million in loans from foreign banks last year.

Exports of the group's major trading company, Enka Pazarlama Ithalat ve ihracat A.S., realised \$312.4 million in 1983, against \$198 million in 1982, making it the largest exporting company in Turkey.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WADAR

TELOX

KOECIO

EXNOST

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THAT BODY BUILDER PUT A TIGHT T-SHIRT ON HIS TORSO?

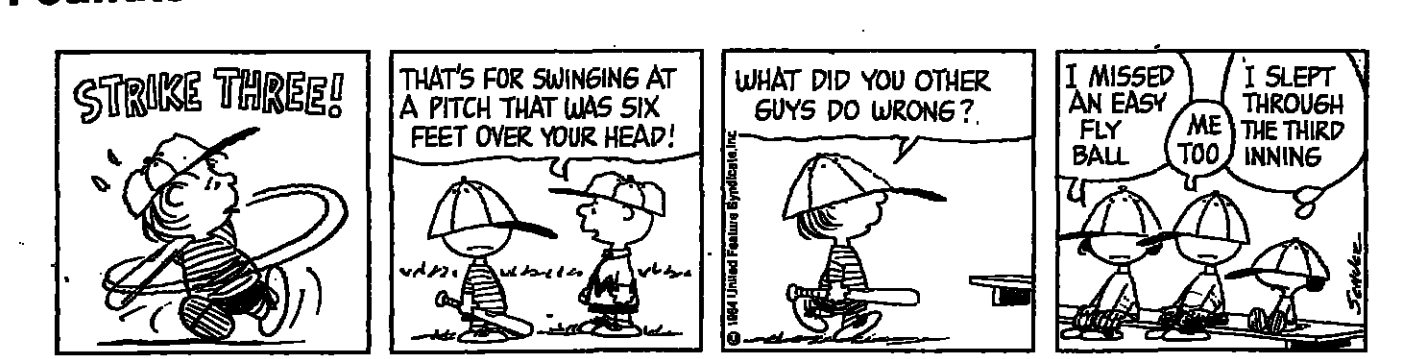
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

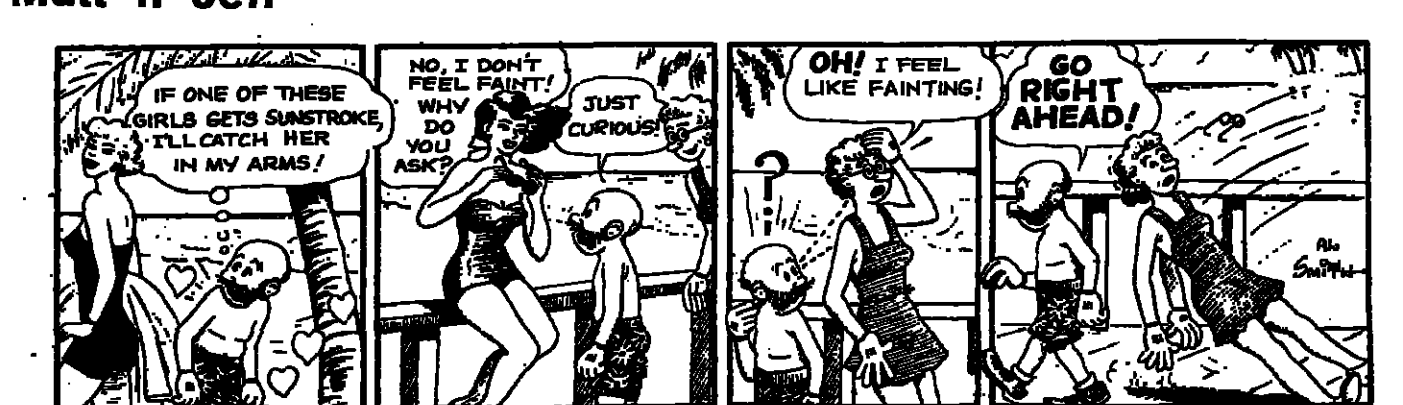
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHALK THYME LAYOFF DETAIN
Answer: Skating is a wintertime sport often learned thus—IN THE "FALL"

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



V.W. omits dividend

WOLFSBURG, West Germany (R) — Volkswagen (V.W.), West Germany's biggest carmaker, announced Thursday it was omitting a dividend to shareholders for the second year running. The decision reflects group net losses in each of the last two years of about 300 million marks (\$115 million). Though the market leader in West Germany, V.W. saw its share of new-car registrations drop 2.2 per cent last year to 21.3 per cent. It expected to boost its worldwide vehicle output slightly to 2.12 million. Chief executive Mr. Carl Hahn has pinned the company's hopes for recovery on its Golf mark II which was unveiled in West Germany last autumn but is launched in the United States only this year. He recently predicted that 1984 would be a turning point for V.W. earnings. Losses in South America would be halved and demand would pick up in West Germany and North America. Thursday's brief statement said extensive risk provisions, especially for Latin American operations, and high costs linked to new models burdened last year's performance markedly.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when coming to an agreement with those you regard as your partners and associates can occur if you go along with conditions as they unfold.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Your associates are very important to you and you can now come to a fine agreement, provided you don't get into any outside operations.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Study the work at hand and use the newest mechanisms so that you can save time and energy.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Delve into inexpensive entertainment only and have a good time. Use good judgment in dealing with your mate.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Some changes at home could prove costly so think twice about making them. Entertain there in the evening.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You may find it difficult to get work done today, but use care and all works out well. A co-worker has an idea that is not good for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Forget the financial for now and get repairs done that are necessary and have more order around you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Your judgment about some fundamental affair is not apt to be good today, so get ideas and advice from others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You are anxious to gain data you need but cannot do so now. It is important that you are very kind with your mate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Not a good day for handling monetary matters but fine for gaining personal aims, if you go after them. Enjoy good friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Listen to the advice of experts today since your own judgment is not up to par. Attend some fine social event in the evening.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) New ideas come to your attention, but study them well before accepting. Don't let a private anxiety slow you down.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Your hunches are not good now so use your good judgment in whatever may turn up unexpectedly.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be one who will want own way at all times and should be taught early to consider the rights and feelings of others if the big success possible in this chart is to be realized. Then the life will flow naturally.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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THE Daily Crossword by Samuel K. Flegner

ACROSS

1 Woven band

6 — accomplish

10 For men only

14 Lawn or Evans

15 Artifice

16 Spiral

17 Western

18 Heraldic

19 Scratch out

20 Complete victory

22 Forearm bone

23 Heating lamp

24 Logo

28 Gaudy and cheap

30 Connection

32 Beige

33 Mortgage

35 Educational aide

39 Automobile frame

41 Below cost

43 Seven: comb. form

44 Bank deal

45 Cheat

47 Bond

49 Fondue ingredient

51 Hunting party

54 Overwhelm by means of amusement

56 Kind of sauce

57 Form of lottery

63 Hornswoggle

64 Lamp black

65 Firm

66 Woodwind

67 In — (bored by routine)

68 Chimp

69 Stein

70 Not so much

71 Spiny-finned fish

25 Yogi's glove

26 Georgia —

27 Yearn

28 — up (conclude)

29 Book cover

31 Early Peruvian

34 Skerry

36 Gate

37 Elevator receipts

38 Pioneer

39 Lacoste of tennis

40 Eur. coal region

42 Remove the lid

43 Before: prof.

45 Prayer book

50 Minty aromatic herb

51 Wooden shoe

52 Courtroom plea

53 Criminal

55 Riga inhabitants

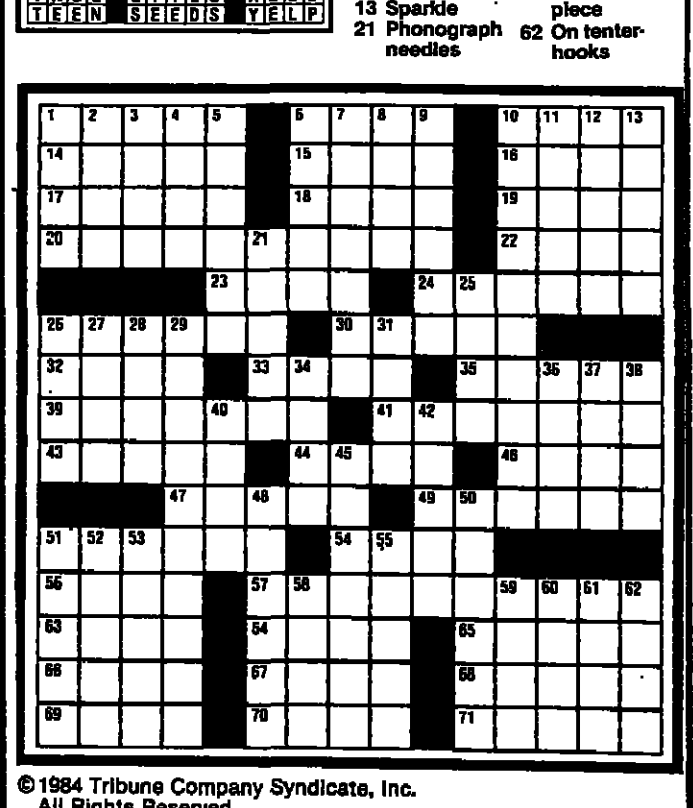
58 Endured

59 Bullying participant

60 Shaped like a wing

61 Chess piece

62 On tenterhooks



Supreme Soviet session clarifies Kremlin positions

MOSCOW (R) — A two-day session of the Supreme Soviet (parliament) which ended Thursday has given some clear indications of the way the Kremlin is working since the death of Yuri Andropov in February.

Konstantin Chernenko, 72, who succeeded Mr. Andropov as party leader, was unanimously elected to the ceremonial title of head of state, confirming that this practice was now policy.

At the same time the man thought to be Mr. Andropov's own favoured successor, Mikhail Gorbachev, showed all the signs of having emerged as Mr. Chernenko's heir-apparent, Western diplomats said.

The 53-year-old Mr. Gorbachev proposed Mr. Chernenko for the presidential office, fulfilling a function that usually falls

to the Kremlin number two man.

He said the title carried weight in the international arena, lent authority to the pronouncements of the country's leader, and showed the unity of party and state.

On Wednesday the parliament, which was meeting in an inaugural session after March 4 elections, appointed Mr. Gorbachev himself to head an important foreign policy commission, a position previously held by Mr. Chernenko.

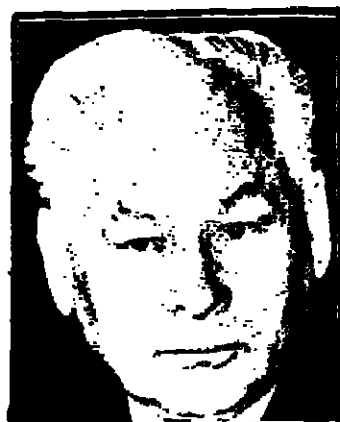
Senior Western Kremlin-watchers said this indicated that Mr. Gorbachev, the youngest member of the politburo, had

been appointed in charge of ideology, the field held by Mr. Andropov on his road to the top, and by the late Mikhail Suslov, for many years a key Kremlin figure.

Smiling, joking and self-possessed throughout the two days of the parliamentary session, Mr. Gorbachev had the air of a man well aware that if he had to wait five years for the top job, he would still be young enough to dispel the image of the Kremlin as a gerontocracy.

The old men nevertheless showed no signs of relinquishing power. Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov, 78, looked fit and alert as he formally offered his government's resignation, due because of the new parliament, and immediately accepted the job again and nominated an almost unaltered team of ministers.

The other two senior members of the politburo, Defence Minister



Konstantin Chernenko

Dmitry Ustinov, 75, and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, 74, who has held his job since 1957, were both confirmed in their jobs.

On Thursday the Supreme Soviet enacted its most significant piece of legislation, approving a reform of the country's educational system broadly aimed at fostering technology while preserving Communist ideology.

The reform project was launched under Mr. Andropov and its implementation is one indication that the critical attitude which flourished in his brief 15 months in power has not been jettisoned.

House demands halt of U.S. role in mining Nicaraguan harbours

WASHINGTON (R) — An angry U.S. House of Representatives has joined the Senate in demanding that the Reagan administration must halt any U.S. role in mining Nicaraguan ports.

The House voted 281-111 Thursday that it was the "sense of Congress" that no U.S. funds should be used "for the purpose of planning, directing, executing or supporting the mining of the ports or territorial waters of Nicaragua."

The resolution is not binding on the White House. But coupled with the Senate's passage of a similar resolution by an overwhelming 84-12 vote on Tuesday night, it represented the harshest repudiation yet by Congress of President Reagan's policies in Central America.

Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam was quoted as telling congressmen on Wednesday the mining had stopped. But some congressmen said they had not received adequate assurances that it would not be resumed.

Nicaragua has repeatedly claimed that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) directed or helped in the mine-laying. The United States has not admitted this, although officials privately acknowledge the CIA role.

Several congressmen said the resolution could be a forerunner of a refusal by Congress to provide

any more aid for Nicaraguan guerrillas fighting against the leftist Managua government.

The State Department had no comment on a statement Thursday by Nicaragua that it was being attacked by rebel groups in a major two-pronged assault.

Nicaraguan military leaders in Managua told a news conference that the country was under mass attack by 8,000 CIA-backed insurgents from neighbouring Honduras.

U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick, accused Nicaragua earlier in Washington of "a continuing, determined armed attack against its neighbours" and said those countries had a right to act in self-defence.

"As of this time, there is not a scintilla of evidence to suggest that any of Nicaragua's activities against its neighbours have ceased," she said. "To portray Nicaragua as a victim... is a complete Orwellian inversion of what is actually happening."

Mrs. Kirkpatrick addressed two leading groups of international lawyers in what officials called a major statement of the administration's position on events in Central America.

The administration has accused Nicaragua of exporting leftist revolution and Soviet Bloc arms to anti-government guerrillas in

other areas of Central America.

While U.S. aid to anti-Sandinist guerrillas in Nicaragua is in jeopardy, Democratic leaders in the House hinted Thursday military aid for El Salvador, where the U.S.-backed government is engaged in a war against leftist rebels.

President Reagan had sought \$92 million for El Salvador. The Senate earlier approved \$61.7 million, but the House balked at the figure.

Congressional leaders were awaiting word from the White House whether the president would accept the House offer.

House Democrats said the smaller figure was all they would allow now and Mr. Reagan risked another row with Congress if he exceeded the limit.

The House Judiciary Committee has asked Attorney General William French Smith to appoint a special prosecutor to "investigate and if necessary prosecute possible violations of the neutrality act by administration officials in their conduct of the covert war against Nicaragua."

House Democrats engaged in angry debate over U.S. involvement in the mining. James Shannon of Massachusetts called it a terrorist act.

"We are not Iran," he said. "We are better than that. We should stand for values around the world."

Tanzania mourns death of Prime Minister Sokoine

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — Tanzania Friday mourned President Julius Nyerere's political heir-apparent, Prime Minister Edward Sokoine, 46, who died in a car crash Thursday.

Radio Tanzania played only funeral music after a news bulletin devoted entirely to the death of Mr. Sokoine whose car hit a stationary vehicle as he drove back from the country's administrative capital Dodoma to Dar Es Salaam.

Flags were lowered to half-mast as the country began two weeks of mourning for the man who had been expected to succeed Mr.

Nyerere as president.

Mr. Nyerere has been talking increasingly of retiring after leading the country since independence from Britain in 1961. Informal sources said the man now most likely to succeed him was former Prime Minister Rashid Kawawa.

Mr. Kawawa is at present the secretary-general of Tanzania's only legal political group, the ruling Revolutionary Party.

Mr. Sokoine had been in office since February last year. He was first prime minister from 1977 to 1980 but resigned because of ill health.

Camerounian Republican Guard command dissolved

YAOUNDE (R) — Cameroun President Paul Biya has dissolved the command of his Republican Guard after some of its members tried unsuccessfully to oust him last week.

A presidential decree signed two days ago and published Thursday said the guard, a paramilitary force charged with Mr. Biya's protection, would now report to the National Gendarmerie.

The decree also said that equipment of Cameroun's armed forces and artillery section would be moved to the army's regimental headquarters in the capital, Yaounde.

Responsibility for the equipment of Cameroun's infantry and cavalry has been placed under the National Gendarmerie.

The Presidential Palace will in future be guarded by men from the army headquarters. Other presidential residences will be protected by "competent legions of the Gendarmerie," the decree said.

The coup attempt was staged by dissident members of the Republican Guard. At least 90 of them died in fighting which ended on Tuesday night in the capital.

Nixon says J.F. Kennedy ran 'imperial presidency'

NEW YORK (R) — Richard Nixon says President John F. Kennedy ran a ruthless "imperial presidency" that allowed wiretaps for questionable purposes — including bugging the phone of a reporter working on a book on Marilyn Monroe.

Mr. Nixon, in an interview to be shown on CBS television on Sunday, described the Kennedy political operation as "ruthless. They'd do anything to win. They played hardball."

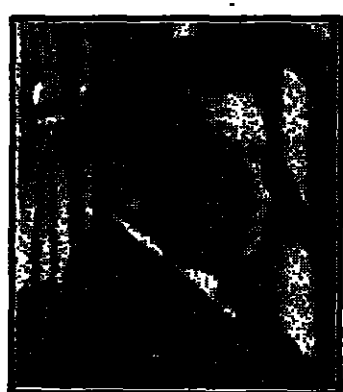
In the interview with ex-aide Frank Gannon, he also says he wished he had stopped Spiro Agnew from resigning as his vice president in 1973 as a result of a political bribery scandal.

Mr. Gannon asked Mr. Nixon if he thought he had run an "imperial presidency" and the former president replied:

"I would say the Kennedy presidency is the one that qualifies as the imperial presidency more than any other. They really knew how to use power and use it ruthlessly."

Mr. Nixon charged that President Kennedy through his brother, then Attorney General Robert Kennedy, ordered the highest number of wiretaps of any administration and used them "for what I would say were questionable national security purposes."

He added: "For example, they wiretapped one reporter that was writing a book on Marilyn Monroe that might have some derogatory comments about the Kennedys in them."



Richard Nixon

Mr. Nixon, who resigned as a result of the Watergate scandal, said some wiretaps during his terms should not have been made but he said at least there was justification for them.

Mr. Nixon described Kennedy as a suave debonair man who was very tough. "He was a Stevenson with balls," he said, referring to Adlai Stevenson, a Democratic presidential candidate often called a political gentleman.

Mr. Agnew got a "bum rap" (raw deal) because what he was accused of occurred before he became vice president, Mr. Nixon said. Mr. Agnew after resigning pleaded no contest to charges that he received payments from contractors while governor of Maryland.

"With the problems I had at that particular time there was nothing I could do for him. I only wish I had been stronger. If I had been, I would have stopped him," he said.

Brazilians keep momentum of direct election campaign

BRASILIA (R) — Brazil's opposition kept up the momentum of a campaign for the right to vote for the president by drawing a crowd of over 400,000 demonstrators in the Goias state capital of Goiania Thursday.

State Governor Iris Rezende Machado of the main opposition Democratic Movement Party ensured a good turnout by ordering all shops and factories to close by noon and providing free transport for attending the rally.

More than a million people marched through Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday and the carnival atmosphere there caught hold again in Goiania. Bands played beneath banners inscribed "I want to vote for the president" while the good-natured crowd chanted "direct elections now."

Other rallies were planned in the southern city of Porto Alegre Friday and next Monday in São Paulo where organisers predict the turnout will exceed two mil-

lion, making it the biggest ever in Brazil.

Opposition leaders are convinced the growing pressure exerted by hundreds of thousands of demonstrators will lead them to victory in a parliamentary debate on April 25 on an amendment to change the constitution to allow a direct vote for the successor of President Joao Figueiredo.

General Figueiredo, whose six-year mandate ends on March 15, 1985, has made only one concession in the face of the vociferous opposition campaign. He has said he will send to parliament a constitutional amendment to allow direct elections but only after his successor takes over.

Gen. Figueiredo, the fifth president since a bloodless military coup in 1964, found himself in the middle of a confusing incident Thursday when one of his long-time friends quoted him as saying that the direct election campaign was his idea.

Punjab celebrates festival amid violence

AMRITSAR (Agencies) — Police and paramilitary troops patrolled the streets of this Sikh holy city on a major festival Friday, while scattered violence was reported in other parts of strife-torn Punjab state.

Thousands of Sikhs thronged to the historic Golden Temple here to pray and take a dip in its holy pond on the occasion of Baisakhi, an ancient harvest festival observed by both Sikhs and Hindus.

It was on a Baisakhi day in the 17th-century that the last Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh founded the holy order "khalsa."

Guru Gobind Singh introduced the Sikhs' pride in marital prowess and the obligatory wearing of a Kirpan or dagger at all times.

On Friday, about 1,000 troops of the Border Security Force and Punjab Armed Police were stationed along a six-kilometre route of a Sikh procession scheduled

later in the day.

Harchand Singh Longowal, the top Sikh political leader, earlier urged Sikh villagers to march to Amritsar on Baisakhi to protest the killing of eight Sikhs by paramilitary police during a riot here April 3.

Suspected Sikh terrorists, meanwhile, shot and wounded an unidentified man 100 kilometres south of Amritsar, state police said. The assailants escaped in a car.

In another incident, five Sikh gunmen robbed passengers aboard a train and then fled after halting the train near Amritsar, the police control room said. The amount taken was not immediately known.

The situation was reported tense in the city of Patiala where authorities earlier ordered a dusk-to-dawn curfew after violence erupted during the funeral

of an assassinated Hindu.

On Thursday, Sikh terrorists assassinated the editor of a pro-Chinese Communist news magazine in Amritsar. The victim, Sukhraj Singh was a Sikh.

Punjab has been shaken by a Sikh agitation demanding more political and religious concessions from Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's government.

Nearly 400 people have been slain by Sikh extremists in the past three years in the Sikh-dominated northern Indian state.

Friday was also the anniversary of one of the major turning points in India's struggle for independence from Britain.

On April 13, 1919, about 400 Sikhs and Hindus were mown down by British troops under the command of General Reginald Dwyer during a protest meeting near the Golden Temple.

Hart seeks new approach after Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Walter Mondale's campaign strategists think he has found the right style to clinch the Democratic presidential nomination while his floor-undering rival Gary Hart searches for "new ideas" to revive his fortunes.

Despite Mr. Mondale's impressive victory in Tuesday's Pennsylvania primary election, both sides agree the battle for the nomination is far from over.

The fight now heads into Hart country — the south, southwest and west.

But Mr. Mondale goes into the final leg of the campaign with more than 1,000 of the 1,967 delegates needed to win the nomination at July's Democratic Convention and with the momentum in the campaign clearly on his side.

After an initial flourish, Sen. Hart has slipped badly, losing primaries to the former vice-president in the major states of Illinois, New York and Pennsylvania.

Sen. Hart's campaign manager, Oliver Henkel, said the Colorado senator would become more aggressive on the campaign trail, going after Mr. Mondale with a new "give 'em hell, Gary" fervour.

Sen. Hart spokesman David Landau said: "We need to be more aggressive. It is clear from polling data that Gary's message does strike with voters. What we need to do is better connect that message with Gary."

Opinion polls in Pennsylvania saw many voters found Sen. Hart vague on issues and too concerned with image. They suggested that

the 47-year-old senator's once-bright appeal as a new ideas leader in the mould of the late John Kennedy has lost most of its bloom.

The next major campaign battle will be the May 5 caucuses in Texas, where Sen. Hart claims strength but where Mr. Mondale again has the support of a large section of the political establishment and the trade unions.

New York Governor Mario Cuomo, a Mondale backer, said Wednesday that Sen. Hart "still has his cowboy boots on and they could prove to be terrific running shoes."

But Mr. Mondale's campaign chairman, James Johnson, said he thought the former vice president had now hit his stride as a campaigner and had found the right hard-hitting style to beat Sen. Hart.

Aquino lawyer says military broke promise

MANILA (R) — An army officer who promised to produce the missing common-law wife of the alleged killer of Filipino opposition leader Benigno Aquino did not keep his word, a lawyer said Friday.

Lupino Lazaro, who represents the family of the alleged killer, Colonel Balbino Diego, charged with locating Lina, agreed to bring her but went back on his promise. The military never said that she is in its custody. Lina's 15-year-old son told the commission she was taken away by four men saying Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fabian Ver had called her. Gen. Ver has denied that he had summoned her.

Sen. Aquino was shot at Manila Airport on Aug. 21 moments after returning from voluntary exile. The Philippine military has said he was killed by Mr. Galman, whom they described as a hired gunman

was summoned to testify.

Mr. Lazaro told Reuters that Colonel Balbino Diego, charged with locating Lina, agreed to bring her but went back on his promise.

The military never said that she is in its custody. Lina's 15-year-old son told the commission she was taken away by four men saying Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fabian Ver had called her. Gen. Ver has denied that he had summoned her.

Sen. Aquino was shot at Manila Airport on Aug. 21 moments after returning from voluntary exile. The Philippine military has said he was killed by Mr. Galman, whom they described as a hired gunman

and Communist rebel. Mr. Galman himself was gunned down seconds later.

After Lina was reported missing, the commission chairman, retired judge Corazon Agrava, ordered Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile to mount a search for her in co-ordination with Mr. Lazaro.

Mr. Lazaro said Col. Diego had given him the impression that he could produce Lina within 24 hours.

He said although Mr. Enrile had acted on the order, subordinates seemed not to have complied, adding that he had made a full report to Judge Agrava.

Gunmen kill Filipino deputy mayor

MANILA (R) — Three people, including a woman deputy mayor, were killed when gunmen opened fire during an opposition political rally in the central Philippines, police reported Thursday.

They said Deputy Mayor Rosita Villafuerte was shot in the back of the head at Sipocot in Camarines Sur Province, about 240 kilometres southeast of Manila. Two men were killed and two others injured by stray bullets.

The mayor of a town in Mindanao Del Sur province on Mindanao island in the southern Philippines

was killed on Sunday in an attack also linked to next month's national assembly elections.

Mrs. Villafuerte's husband is local campaign manager for the opposition United Nationalist Democratic Organisation (UNIDO) and her brother-in-law is seeking re-election to the assembly as a UNIDO candidate.

Vicente Santiago, chairman of the official election commission, said the armed forces command had provided a list of 188 towns and cities considered potential

trouble spots during the election period.

He did not identify the areas but said the military cited them because of "violent incidents due to intense political rivalry, the presence of lawless elements, including the Communist New People's Army, and previous instances of harassment of public school teachers serving as election officers."

Military authorities in Manila later blamed the killing on the New People's Army (NPA)



Policewoman wins sex-case battle

LONDON (R) — A policewoman has won a sex-discrimination battle against London Police chiefs who ruled that she was too pretty to share a patrol car with a married policeman. Her family said 25-year-old Wendy de Lamay would return to work with police traffic teams. Her partnership with a male police officer on mobile traffic duties was broken up by their superior who said she was "too pretty and attractive" for the job. She protested to an industrial tribunal which recommended her reinstatement.

Robot named cop of the month

NEW YORK (R) — It was a real "no comment" situation Thursday when a robot was named New York City's cop of the month. The Police Department's only remote, mobile investigation robot won the honour and stood mute as police commissioner Benjamin Ward read a citation praising it for its work. The robot, known as RMI, was cited for its performance last January when, while on loan to police in Elmira, New York, it was sent into an apartment to determine if a gunman in a hostage incident was still alive. RMI has a remote control television camera that can swivel 360 degrees and police were able to see that the gunman was dead.

Navy exempts woman cadet

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Naval Academy Thursday reversed an earlier decision and decided not to dismiss a woman cadet who refused to make a training jump from a 10-metre tower into a swimming pool. Jacqueline Davis, 22, of Chicago had been dismissed from the academy at Annapolis, Maryland after she refused to jump even though she had been coached to try to overcome her fear. An academy spokesman said the university's superintendent reversed the decision after a naval doctor diagnosed Davis as having a medical phobia. Davis had been dismissed by the academy just six weeks before she would have graduated and been commissioned.

Britain urged to legalise incest

LONDON (R) — British lawmakers were urged Thursday to legalise incest between brothers and sisters over the age of 21. A high-level government advisory committee said Britain's 1908 law making any form of incest a crime was "unnecessarily cruel". But it said the offence of incest in which parents were involved should be extended to adoptive sons and daughters and not just blood relatives as at present. The proposal is likely to cause controversy in Britain, where incest remains one of the last taboos of an otherwise permissive society. The committee, headed by Lord Justice Sir Frederick Lawton, a senior appeal court judge, was set up by the government to consider whether sex offences laws needed revision.

Publisher sues former Lennon aide

NEW YORK (R) — A New York publisher accused a former personal aide to Beatle John Lennon Thursday of using diaries stolen from the late pop star in a manuscript submitted to it for a book to be titled Living With Lennon. Simon and Schuster Inc. charged it its lawsuit that Fred Seaman admitted in a criminal case that he stole the contents. The publisher demanded the return of \$47,500 in advances it said it paid to Mr. Seaman and to Cloverdale Press Inc. which had originated the idea of the book and sold it to Simon and Schuster. Simon and Schuster also sought \$500,000 each in punitive damages from Mr. Seaman and Cloverdale Press. The defendants have 20 days to answer the charges.

Nurse sentenced to death for 12 killings

RIVERSIDE, California (R) — A male nurse who claimed to possess psychic healing powers and believed in re-incarnation was sentenced to death Wednesday for murdering 12 elderly patients with overdoses of the heart drug lidocaine. Robert Diaz, 44, was charged with the murders after police had investigated the deaths of 28 patients in hospitals near this southern California city.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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EACH TRICK IN ITS TIME

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ KQ732
♥ Q1054
♦ A54
♠ 9

WEST **EAST**
♦ J984 ♦ A105
♥ Void ♥ A83
♦ J762 ♦ KQ1093
♦ Q10643 ♦ KJ

SOUTH
♦ 6
♥ KJ9762
♦ 8
♠ A8752

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♦ 3 ♦ 3 ♥ 4 ♦
4 ♥ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Two of ♠.

Even simple hands require a modicum of care. At the bridge table, pessimists make money.

East's jump overall showed the values for at least a sound opening bid. West's raise was justified because of his distributional values, but East elected to go no further because his hand was better suited to defense than offense.

West led a diamond and declarer won in dummy. Thoughtless play now would lead to defeat. Suppose, for example, that declarer were to lead a trump. East follows

low and the jack wins. When West shows out, declarer abandons trumps and leads a spade to the king and ace. East now plays ace of hearts and another and, because of the bad club break, declarer can make no more than nine tricks — a spade, a ruff and the ace of diamonds on the table, and five trumps and the ace of clubs in hand.

The careful declarer has no problem making the hand — with an overtrick to boot. It takes nothing more than sound technique.

After winning the ace of diamonds, declarer simply leads the king of spades from dummy at trick two. East wins the ace, but declarer is a tempo ahead and no defense harms him.

Suppose East returns a diamond. Declarer ruffs, cashes the ace of clubs and ruffs a club. He discards a club on the queen of spades and ruffs another diamond. Then comes a club ruff high on the table. East can overruff or not, as he pleases, but the defenders cannot get any more than their two major suit aces.

The secret is simple — don't touch trumps if you intend to ruff in one hand or the other. But show the hand to your friends and see how many start with a trump at trick two.